

4-H Newsletter

4-H Updates

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Upcoming Events

February 19: Extension Office closed in observance of President's Day

February 29: Leader Training on zoom-7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 1: T-shirt designs due to the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m.

Office Closed

The Extension Office will be closed Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day.

Nebraska 4-H Month

February is Nebraska 4-H Month! Please be sure to watch the Facebook page for celebrations and opportunities. Youth who would like to participate in the Nebraska 4-H Month photography contest can do so by visiting the following link: <https://4h.unl.edu/photography-showcase>

Any enrolled 4-H member who is 8 to 18 years old may participate in the photography contest by submitting one photo per week that goes along with each week's theme.

Leader Training

Attention all Leaders, we are hosting a Leader's Training via zoom on Thursday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m. It is recommended that ALL LEADERS ATTEND the training. Topics we will be covering include positive youth development, enrollment updates, volunteer screening, livestock updates, and more. The zoom link will be sent by Stephanie Bell, 4-H Extension Educator via email.

If you cannot attend, please let Brenda, KateLynn, or Stephanie know via email, or by calling the Extension Office at (402) 352-3821.



Gearing up in 2024!

The new year is here, which means it is time to reorganize 4-H Clubs. Please let us know if you need help with getting started or reorganizing your 4-H Clubs. Be sure to invite new members and families in your community to join your 4-H group.

New Families

If you have new families in your 4-H club, please submit their name, email, and mailing address to the Extension Office so that we can add their name to our mailing lists, and help them navigate the enrollment process.

4-H Council Representatives

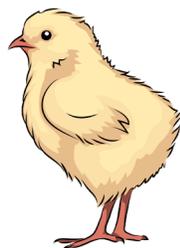
A reminder to ALL 4-H clubs! If you need to nominate new 4-H Council representatives, please nominate them before the March meeting. If a club doesn't have 4-H Council representatives, it has no voice on how to allocate the resources of the 4-H Council to support your club's success in Colfax County. Remember that all youth representatives have 1-year terms, and that adult representatives have 2-year terms, but both youth and adults can serve multiple terms. We have quite a few adult representatives whose terms are up, so be sure to have them in place by the March 12th 4-H Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Clarkson Public Library.

T-Shirt Design Contest



The 4-H Council is excited to announce that they are holding a t-shirt design contest to find a new design for the Colfax County 4-H shirt. All Colfax County 4-H'ers are welcome to enter. The 4-H council members will choose a winner and will send that design to the State 4-H Office for approval. After the design is approved by the state office, a winner will be announced. A prize will be given to the 4-H'er whose design is chosen.

Attached to this newsletter is a sheet that can be used to draw your design. You may also send in computer generated designs. All designs must be an original drawing or creation. Designs need to be sent to the Extension Office by March 1st, so start working on your designs now!



Free Chicks!

The Messing family will once again offer free chicks to 4-H'ers interested in showing them at the Colfax County Fair. Each 4-H'er that signs up will receive 5 broiler chicks, with the expectation that they show them at the Colfax County Fair. Please call the Colfax County Extension Office at 402-352-3821 to reserve your free chicks by **April 1st**. *Please note, youth must be enrolled in 4-H prior to the April 1st deadline in order to receive the free chicks.*

Chicks will be available for pick up in early June at the Messing house.



Sewing Saturdays

Sewing Saturdays have been scheduled for Saturday, March 9th and Saturday, April 13th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Colfax County Extension Office. 4-H members who participate cut, piece, and sew a quilt top for a Quilt of Valor that is presented to a local veteran at the 4-H Volunteer Banquet in January. 4-H members with any, or no level of sewing experience are invited, and highly encouraged to participate. If you would like to learn more about this fun volunteer experience or sign up, please call the Extension Office at 402-352-3821.

Special Agronomy Project

The Nebraska Extension Special Agronomy Project gives 4-H members an opportunity to experience a crop that is grown, was grown or has the potential to be grown in Nebraska. Youth participate by receiving seed and resources to grow the crop, research traits of the crop and determine the viability of that crop in the part of the state they live. The project allows 4-H members interested in agronomy to grow something fun, new and different. This year we have the honor to grow a crop grown in the panhandle!

In the fourth year of the special agronomy project, youth will explore sugar beets! Sugar beets are a major contributor to the U.S. sweetener industry and occur in a vast range of different food products. Be eligible to enter an exhibit at both the Colfax County and/or State Fair in the agronomy project area.

Enroll for the 2024 Special Agronomy Project through 4-H Online by enrolling in the Agronomy project ***AND contacting the Colfax County Extension by calling 402 352 3821, or emailing bdolezal2@unl.edu by Monday, February 26th to order seeds.***

Communication Event

The Communication Event will be held on Sunday, April 7 at 4:00 p.m. in the West Education Center at Central Community College, Columbus, Nebraska. Information on the specific communication events is in the flier attached to the end of the newsletter. This event is a great way for 4-Hers to start or expand on their public speaking or presentation skills.

For more information and how to register online utilizing 4-HOnline for any of the events, please refer to the attached flier, or contact Brenda by calling the Colfax County Extension Office at (402) 352-3821, or email bdolezal2@unl.edu. Registration is due by **March 20, 2024**.

4-H Enrollment

Youth and volunteers can now enroll in 4-H for the new year! When re-enrolling, please **DO NOT** create a new account/enrollment. Use your email address and password from last year to log in and start your re-enrollment for this year. The link to 4-HOnline is: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>



If you need assistance with completing your registration, please contact Brenda by calling the Extension Office at (402) 352-3821, or email bdolezal2@unl.edu. You can also find some helpful resources to help you through this process by visiting the following link: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/colfax/enrollment-resources-for-4honline/>.

When reviewing your information, please be sure your email address is one that your family regularly checks. This email address is where all your 4-H, newsletter, county fair and state fair information is sent. Please also remember when enrolling in 4HOnline to use **Colfax County**, not the county you live in.

The Enrollment fee is \$10.00 for both Clover Kids and Traditional Age 4-H members. This enrollment fee will be able to be paid online with a credit/debit card or paid in the office with cash or a check. Enroll by April 1st to be entered into a drawing to win 1 of 2 QC Buckets filled with fair supplies. **Please enroll as soon as possible.**

New for 2024 Enrollment: A simplified project list has been implemented for the new enrollment year. This is to make 4-H enrollment easier for families, and to increase consistency statewide. Please remember that this is for project enrollment, NOT fair entries. A project is centered around a topic of interest for member(s), and should include a series of learning experiences. When you enroll in 4-HOnline please be sure to complete your project enrollment. The project enrollment information assists us with providing members with information they will need to complete their 4-H projects.

Camp Scholarships

4-H Youth are encouraged to apply for a camp scholarship sponsored by the 4-H Council. The 4-H Council would like for you to complete the application for a 4-H Camp Scholarship that is included at the end of this newsletter and return it to the Extension Office. The 4-H Council will provide 2/3 of the camp cost. Some options are:

- Nebraska 4-H Summer Camps
- Livestock Judging Camp, Lincoln
- Big Red Summer Academic Camps

4-H'ers who did not receive a camp scholarship in 2023 will have first priority, but all 4-H'ers are encouraged to apply. To see full camp descriptions and to register online go to: <https://4h.unl.edu/camps-summer>

Deadline for the camp scholarships is June 1, 2024.

Livestock Judging Contest

The 2024 Butler, Colfax, and Platte County Livestock Judging Contest will be held on May 23rd at the fairgrounds in Leigh. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

4-H Diamond Clover Recognition

Colfax County will recognize 4-H'ers through the Diamond Clover program. 4-H'ers will be recognized for their accomplishments and life skill development. This is available to all 4-H'ers, regardless of age. There are six levels of recognition. A short form needs to be completed when you sign up for 4-H this year and the rest of the form will be completed in September. For more information, contact the Extension Office. Club leaders will also received information on the 4-H Diamond Clover Recognition Program.

Livestock Progress Shows Mailing List

All livestock exhibitors are encouraged to attend a Progress Show prior to the County Fair. This serves as good practice for both the exhibitor and their animals.

Contact the Extension Office if you want to be on the mailing list for 4-H Livestock Progress Shows. The information about progress shows will be sent only to those who notify us that they want the information.

We do not carry names over from last year's list. So, if you want to receive progress show information, give us a call.



Nebraska State Fair Age Change

As you know, in 2023, Nebraska 4-H lowered the age limit for participation in the Nebraska State Fair for all in-person events to nine years of age. That change increased our participation and provided more youth with the opportunity to have an engaging learning experience. We had many positive comments from legacy families as well as new.

*This fall, we have had follow-up conversations with many of you as well as the show superintendents and various teams that run these events during State Fair and throughout the year. Based on that feedback and our goal of increasing access, the decision has been made to change **the age of eligibility in 2024 to be 8 years of age before January 1 (of the current year) for all in-person State Fair events (livestock, contests, fashion shows, contests) and other state competitions (Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Expo, PASE, communications contest).** Note: there will be some events that will maintain their ages due to specific program rules (shooting sports, FIRST LEGO League Challenge robotics). Please check information on each specific event as it becomes available. Please contact us if you have questions.*



YQCA

New this year! There will be Face-to-Face YQCA trainings being offered by Aleisha Meusch in Butler County. The first one will be Saturday, March 9th in Butler County. Information on these trainings and requirements are in the flier attached to the end of the newsletter. There is a training being offered immediately following the Butler, Colfax, and Platte County Livestock Judging Contest in the 4-H building. Please note, there is a pre-test that must be completed prior to the Face-to-Face trainings. Please refer any questions on these clinics to Aleisha Meusch by emailing: aliesha.meusch@unl.edu

If you cannot attend any of these Face-to-Face trainings, you can still complete the YQCA requirements online. Please watch for information on the online option in the March 4-H Newsletter.

Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI)

NAYI will be held July 8-12, 2024, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus. Students selected to attend NAYI do so free of charge due to generous donations from numerous agricultural businesses, commodity groups and industry organizations. Current high school juniors and seniors interested in attending have until April 15, 2024, to apply. Applications for NAYI are available at nda.nebraska.gov/nayi and must be submitted online. This year's theme is "Leading Your Legacy."



Big Red Academic Camps

Are you ready to take the next step towards a successful future? Consider being a part of an immersive and empowering college and career ready experience through Big Red Camps 2024! Embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery, skill-building, and preparation for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. These experiential learning opportunities allow you to work alongside UNL faculty and staff as well as business and industry professionals. Incoming freshmen through seniors during the 2024-25 school year are welcome. Whether you're a first-time camper or a returning veteran, there is a guaranteed unforgettable experience filled with learning and fun! Don't delay, reserve your spot today! For more information and to register, visit: 4h.unl.edu/big-red-camps or contact: BigRedCamps@unl.edu.

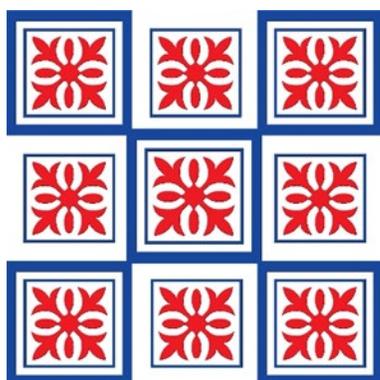


4-H Council Award Winners

Congratulations to the following 4-H Award Winners:

- Friend of 4-H – Steve McKelvey and Steve's Madhouse Market
- Outstanding 4-H Alumni – Russ Pickhinke
- Outstanding 4-H Member – Aubrie Hanna

The awards are sponsored by the Colfax County 4-H Council and the Nebraska 4-H Foundation.



Quilt of Valor

This year's Quilt of Valor was presented to Tom Messing. Tom served in the United States Army. He is a Veteran of the Korean war and was deployed from 1954-1956.

In addition to his military service, Tom has served as the small animal superintendent at the Colfax County Fair for 45 years. He has also generously donated broiler chicks to 4-Hers showing at the Colfax County Fair for many years.

Thank you for your service, Tom!

Thank you to our 4-H Leaders!

We would like to thank our leaders for their years of service. We couldn't have a 4-H program without you.

Upcoming Events:

March 9: Sewing Saturday at the Extension Office-9:00 a.m. to Noon

March 12: 4-H Council Meeting at the Clarkson Public Library-7:00 p.m.

March 20: Online registration due for the Communication Event on 4-HOnline

April 1: Free chick orders due to the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m.

April 1: 4-H Enrollment completion deadline to be entered in the drawing for a QC Supply bucket filled with fair supplies

April 7: Communication Event at the West Education Center at Central Community College, Columbus, Nebraska-4:00 p.m.

April 13: Sewing Saturday at the Extension Office-9:00 a.m. to Noon

April 15: Deadline to register for NAYI

April 29: Colfax County Agricultural Literacy Day at the Fairgrounds in Leigh

May 23: Butler, Colfax, and Platte County Livestock Judging Contest at the Fairgrounds in Leigh, Nebraska

May 23: Face-to-Face YQCA Training immediately following the Livestock Judging Contest awards

<u>1 year</u> Brianna Burenheide Kari Kracl	<u>7 years</u> Laura Eisenmann
<u>2 years</u> Jill Bailey Jamie Hastreiter Amanda Jedlicka	<u>8 years</u> Chris Bourek Tina Bourek Brent Brabec
<u>4 years</u> Brandy Balzer Sara Prinz	<u>9 years</u> Rachel Malena
<u>5 years</u> Al Sucha	<u>10 years</u> Phillip Wendt
	<u>14 years</u> Danelle Marxsen
	<u>22 years</u> Jill Ruskamp

25 years of dedicated service

Marla Prusa

29 years of dedicated service

Renae Vogel

50 years of dedicated service to the Colfax County 4-H program

Linda Grovijohn

Thank
You



Pictured in the back row from left to right: Steve McKelvey (*Friend of 4-H Award Winner*), Linda Grovijohn (*4-H Leader who has dedicated 50 years of service*), and Aubrie Hanna (*Outstanding 4-H Member Award Winner*). In the middle row: Marla Prusa (*4-H Leader who has dedicated 25 years of service*), and Kara Eisenmann (*4-H member who helped cut, piece and sew the Quilt of Valor*). In the front row: Justin Eisenmann (*4-H member who helped cut, piece and sew the Quilt of Valor*), Tom Messing (*Veteran presented with the Quilt of Valor*), and Lindley Bailey (*4-H member who helped cut, piece and sew the Quilt of Valor*).



Russ Pickhinke (*Outstanding 4-H Alumni Award Winner*)

DESIGN A T-SHIRT

NAME _____

- Limit of 2 colors in design
- Contest open to 4-H'ers, parents and leaders
- Design must be approximately 8"x8" with no copyrighted characters
- The design must feature 4-H or the 4-H clover, but be sure to follow the following rules. No text or any item may appear over or on top of the clover, the clover needs to be upright, and the official 4-H clover must be used as shown.
- Designs will need to be approved by the State 4-H Office.
- The 4-H Council Reserves the right to modify or combine designs to meet 4-H Rules.
- Return by April 1 to Nebraska Extension in Colfax County, P.O. Box 389 Schuyler, NE 68661



2024 Communication Event

Contests: Speech, Impromptu Speech, PSA, Presentation, Video

Event Date & Time: Sunday, April 7, 2024; 4:00 p.m.

Location: West Education Center, Room 205, Central Community College, Columbus

Registration: Online pre-registration required. The deadline to register is March 20, 2024.

Speech Contest

Age Categories, Time Limits, Topics:

1. Clover Kid (ages 5 - 7 as of January 1st of current year)
3 minutes or less. Talk about anything! You may read a poem or a favorite story.
2. Junior (ages 8 - 10 on January 1st of current year)
2 - 3 minutes. Must be an original speech relating to 4-H.
3. Intermediate (ages 11 - 13 as of January 1st of current year)
3 - 5 minutes. Must be an original speech relating to 4-H.
4. Senior (ages 14 - 18 as of January 1st of current year)
5 - 8 minutes. Must be an original speech relating to 4-H.

Contest Guidelines:

- All speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.
- Many speakers in the Public Speaking Contest have given speeches in other contests. This is fine; however, previous speeches may not be used verbatim for the 4-H contest. It is okay to use the same ideas from a speech previously delivered in competition, but it must be 4-H related. Enough changes should be made to make that speech new to the speaker and the audience. 4-H public speakers may not use an old speech written by a sibling, another 4-H member, or anyone else.
- Acknowledge the source of information used in the speech. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference but should not be quoted directly unless you tell the audience your source.
- **Organization:** Introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Use of visual aids and props is not allowed. Notes may be used for Clover Kid & Novice categories.
- **Delivery:** Eye contact, timing, gestures, and posture.
- **Voice:** Clear tones, correct volume, and good pronunciation.
- Dress appropriately. Do not wear costumes or special effect clothing. 4-H Chevron required.
- No team speeches are allowed.
- 4-H'ers who are 8 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for the Premier Communication Event (State Contest). Youth must be selected at the County Contest to compete in the Premier Communication Event.



Impromptu Speech Contest

Age Categories, Time Limits, Topics:

1. Junior (ages 8 - 10 as of January 1st of current year)
1 1/2 minutes.
2. Intermediate (ages 11 - 13 as of January 1st of current year)
3 minutes.
- 3 Senior (ages 14 - 18 as of January 1st of current year)
5 minutes.

Contest Guidelines:

- Competition will give youth the opportunity to write and present a speech around a 4-H related topic that they select during the competition.
- Given 15 minutes to develop and prepare for their presentation. Participants will then deliver the speech to judges and audience members.
- Example topic: My Day in 4-H
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries allowed.
- 4-H'ers who are 8 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for the Premier Communication Event (State Contest).

Contest Resources:

The following resources can be found online at:

[PCE Impromptu Speech Scoresheet.pdf](#)

Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest

Age Categories, Time Limits, Topics:

1. Junior (ages 8 - 10 as of January 1st of current year)
2. Intermediate (ages 11 - 13 as of January 1st of current year)
3. Senior (ages 14 - 18 as of January 1st of current year)

Contest Guidelines:

- All PSA's are 60 seconds in length.
- Youth will prepare a PSA around the theme: "**4-H is a Feeling**"
- All radio PSA's must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska at any time of the year.
- All 4-H PSA's must include the following tag line within the last ten seconds of the PSA: "**Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu.**" The tag line is included in the 60 second time limit.
- Sound effects and public domain music may be used. Copyrighted material may not be used.
- All PSA's must be the original work of the presenter. Contestants may not use PSA's written and provided by the state or national staff.
- No team PSA's are allowed.
- Scoring is based on the content of the material and delivery.
- Appearance and gestures are not judged.



- **County Contest Only:** Participants may read their PSA at the contest or submit it electronically in a .wav or .mp3 audio format on a flash/jump drive to be played at the contest.
- If selected to go onto the Premier Communication Event (State Contest), radio PSA's will be submitted electronically as a .wav or .mp3 audio format. No CDs accepted.

Contest Resources:

The following resources can be found on-line at:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>

- Guide to Making Great Speeches/How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement

Presentation Contest

Categories:

Show 'n Tell (County Only)

- **Description:** A live presentation with a formal talk where youth will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something.
- **Age:** Clover Kids Only
- **Time Limit:** up to 5 minutes individual, no team presentation available for this class

Illustrated Presentation (Premier Communication Event Eligible)

- **Description:** An Illustrated Presentation involves one or two 4-H'ers giving a live presentation with a formal talk where the presenter(s) will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. All presentation topics should be related to what the 4-H youth is learning through 4-H educational experiences. Participants will be penalized if their presentation exceeds the time limit.
- **Individual or Team:** An Illustrated Presentation may be given by one (1) individual or a team of two (2) individuals. If team members are not in the same age division, they must compete in the age division of the oldest team member.
 - Individual - Junior Division (ages 8 - 10 as of January 1st of current year); Length: 3-5 minutes
 - Individual - Intermediate Division (ages 11 - 13 as of January 1st of current year); Length: 6-8 minutes
 - Individual - Senior Division (ages 14 - 18 as of January 1st of current year); Length 6-8 minutes
 - Team - Junior Division: 5-7 minutes
 - Team - Intermediate and Senior Divisions: 8-10 minutes

Contest Guidelines:

- Presentations must include an introduction (the "why" portion of the topic), a body (the "show and tell" portion of the topic) and a conclusion/summary (the "what" portion of the topic).
- Each participant is required to wear the 4-H chevron, 4-H emblem, or 4-H shirt.
- All categories require the presence of the contestant(s).
- The judge views the entire presentation and engages in a question-and-answer session following the presentation.
- 4-H'ers who are 8 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for the Premier Communication Event (State Contest). Youth must be selected at the County Contest to compete at Premier Communication Event.

Contest Resources:

The following resources can be found under Contest Resources on-line at:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>

- The Versatile 4-H Presentation
- The Four Ps of Planning a Presentation
- Getting Ready to Give a 4-H Presentation
- Presentation Visuals
- Using PowerPoint in 4-H Presentation
- Evaluating a 4-H Presentation
- How to Prepare a Multimedia Presentation

Video Communication Contest

Video Communication (Premier Communication Event Eligible)

- **Description:** The video communication contest allows youth to create a multi-media video around a theme related to 4-H. Judges will be evaluating both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production.
- **Age:** 8 – 18 as of January 1st of current year
- **Time Limit:** 60-90 seconds individual only

Contest Guidelines:

- Youth may use a phone, laptop, or tablet to create a multi-media piece around the theme: “4-H is a Feeling.”
- Sound effects, public-domain music, and graphics can be used. Copyrighted materials may not be used.
- For county contest only, the 4-H'er must be present to play video. If selected to go onto Premier Communication Event (State Contest), the video will be electronically submitted as MP4 files.

Contest Resources:

The following resources can be found under County Resources on-line at:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>

- Video Communication Judging Criteria

2024 Communication Event On-Line Registration

Deadline March 20, 2024

Log into your 4HOnline family account at <https://v2.4honline.com/>

Click “View” button next to 4-H'er who is registering for contest.

Click on “Events” button stated down the lefthand side.

Click on blue “Register for a new event” button.

Select 2024 Communication Event (Butler, Colfax, Platte) – Click Next

Select Category and Click on “Start Registration”



**Face-to-Face YQCA Trainings | Butler County 4-H
Highway 92 Building | 3190 N Rd, David City, NE 68632**

Saturday, March 9 | 10-11 am

Monday, April 1 | 1:30-2:30 pm

Colfax County Fairgrounds: Thursday, May 23 | 3:30 pm

****or immediately following the conclusion of Livestock Judging Contest****

Friday, May 31 | 10-11 am

****Youth are only required to attend ONE training to earn their certification****

Registering for quality assurance will be online at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>, using your YQCA login. If you are new - please create a new account. You can create a family account - with all youth under one account. Face-to-face sessions cost \$3 and online sessions cost \$12. This is paid online when you register. Youth will need to register online prior to coming to the face-to-face session. Face-to-face sessions will last at least one hour. **When registering for YQCA online - youth will need to complete a pre-test prior to attending the training and a post-test in order to access their certificate after training completion.**

Questions? Contact Aliesha at 402-367-7410 or aliesha.meusch@unl.edu.

