



FEBRUARY 2013

Adams County 4-H Newsletter

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FEBRUARY

February 4	4-H Council Meeting
February 5	“Giving your Best” Webinar Series
February 7	Extension Board Meeting
February 10	4-H Kick Off
February 10	Jr. Leaders Meeting
February 11	Horse Stampede entry deadline
February 12	Clover/Life Challenge Meeting
February 12	Ag Society Meeting
February 18	Extension Office Closed
February 24	Animal Science Series Meeting

February is....



Show your 4-H Pride by wearing a 4-H shirt on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> to help celebrate Nebraska 4-H Month. The theme for 2013 is "Join the Revolution of Responsibility." We hope this theme inspires our youth to become involved leaders in their clubs and communities. Celebrate 4-H as youth step up and take responsibility for their future and ours. 4-H month is a great time to recruit new 4-H members, invite friends to a 4-H meeting, thank volunteer leaders and parents or local businesses who support the 4-H program.



Adams County 4-H Kick-Off

The Adams County 4-H Council & Extension Office invite all 4-H'ers and anyone interested in 4-H to attend the Adams County 4-H Kick-Off on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Once again, we will be needing volunteers to assist in putting on this GREAT event!! If you are willing and interested in helping again this year by donating your time at the event or any of your past exhibits, please contact the Extension Office at 402-461-7209.



## **“Giving Your Best” Webinar Series**

Do you need tips, suggestions or new ideas on engaging parents, youth, and the community? A FREE “Giving Your Best” Webinar Series is available for volunteers, parents, and youth professionals. Webinars are offered from noon to 12:45 pm (CST) or 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm (CST) and will be recorded to fit your time schedule. Topics are:

- Engage Every Parent: Strategies for Success - Archived (link available soon)
- Engage Youth through Active Learning - Archived (link available soon)
- Engaging Youth-Adult Partnerships – February 5, 2013

Interested participants may register at <http://4h.unl.edu/givingyourbestwebseminars> to receive the webinar link and recorded sessions.

## **2013 Enrollment Process ~ Need Valid Emails**

It is time to start thinking about 2013 4-H Enrollment! A new option for 2013 is to enroll online with 4-H Access. We are finalizing details and trainings but need your assistance in double checking current email addresses. To enroll online, parents and / or youth needs a valid email address. The online system emails an Open ID, similar to a user name, to the individual. To make this process run as smoothly as possible, we are asking for families to call or email Gwen Rodocker ([gwen.rodocker@unl.edu](mailto:gwen.rodocker@unl.edu) or 402-461-7209) their emails to double check in the system. If you have not already done this please take a few minutes to do this! The paper option will be available to youth or families that do not have an email address.

## ***Thank You***

Thank you to all who made the 4-H Council’s Soup Supper a huge success. The chicken noodle, chili, and desserts were delicious. A special thank you goes to the 4-H Council fund raising committee for taking charge of the event along with the business sponsors. The CWF baskets were beautiful and unique, along with outstanding decorated cakes for the cake auction. A special thank you to Ruhter Auction for being the auctioneer.

## **Leaders & Parents Corner**

### **Junior Leader News**



The Adams County 4-H Junior Leaders will meet on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. at the Adams County Fairgrounds to assist with the 4-H Kick-Off. We will work the Jr. Leaders booth to recruit new members or be placed in another booth. We are still recruiting members! Anyone that is 13 years or older, is welcome to join. You must be an active member of the Adams County 4-H program by being a member of an organized 4-H club or an Independent member. Junior Leaders do a lot of fun learning and leadership activities. Some of the activities the club does are: pancake feed and food booth at the county fair, help with Leader’s banquet, help members and younger 4-H’ers with 4-H projects and are a positive role model for younger 4-H’ers. Bring a friend and make new friends. Also, you are eligible to earn a scholarship. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Shaw (402-756-6636) or the Adams County Extension Office (402-461-7209).

### **4-H Club of the Month**

The Nebraska 4-H Foundation along with the Nebraska 4-H Ambassadors put together a new program for Nebraska 4-H Clubs. Any 4-H club can nominate themselves to be the "Club of the Month" by the second Friday of the month. Each month, a winner will be chosen and will receive a \$50 cash card from the Nebraska 4-H Foundation and a certificate which can be displayed. Also, the Club of the Month's story will be displayed on the 4-H Foundation's website, Facebook and Twitter and a news release will be sent out to their local newspaper. Nomination forms can be found on the Adams County 4-H page at <http://adams.unl.edu>. Please send the nomination forms to: [ne4hambassadors@unl.edu](mailto:ne4hambassadors@unl.edu)

## **Important 4-H Parent, Guardian & Volunteer Meeting – Save the Date: Monday, March 11, 2013**

This year our 4-H Parent, Guardian & Volunteer Meeting will focus on the NEW Youth Policy and Risk Management. This meeting is for anyone who has a part of the 4-H program as a parent, guardian, club leader, or special event volunteers. It is highly RECOMMENDED to attend! This meeting will be held on **Monday, March 11, 2013 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm**. You will receive county information dates also, but the program will be focused on the Youth Policy and Risk Management. Please RSVP via phone (402-461-7209) or email ([elizabeth.janning@unl.edu](mailto:elizabeth.janning@unl.edu)) by Friday, March 8, 2013.

## **New to 4-H Orientation**

Is this your first year in 4-H or need a refresher? Then get a head start on making 2013 a successful year by attending the **4-H Orientation on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Assembly Room of the Adams County Office Building** (located at 300 N. St. Joseph, Hastings, NE). The cost will be \$5.00 per person. This is for parents, guardians, or volunteers who want to be in the 4-H loop and gain tips and ideas for having an outstanding year. You will walk away knowing dates and deadlines ensuring you to be prepared and excited for 4-H! **Please register** by contacting the Adams County Extension Office at (402) 461-7209 or email [elizabeth.janning@unl.edu](mailto:elizabeth.janning@unl.edu).

## **4-H Spotlight Newsletter**

Do you wish there was another spot for more information about 4-H? Then check out the UNL Extension 4-H Spotlight on our webpage ([adams.unl.edu/adamcounty4h](http://adams.unl.edu/adamcounty4h)) located right below the Adams County 4-H Newsletter. The January Issue topics include: Selecting Projects, 4-H Healthy Living Office, Clover Kids – Space for Me!, The Science of 4-H, Farm to Table in 4-H, Parliamentary Procedure at Club Meetings, and Entrepreneurship.

## **4-H Activities Resource**

Do you need new ideas to use with your club or do with your youth? Then check out the Volunteer Educational Resources at [4h.unl.edu/educationalresources](http://4h.unl.edu/educationalresources) for a wide variety of programs with lesson plans! Check it out.

## **4-H Council Information**

### **4-H Council January Happenings**

- Beef Weigh Day Volunteers
- Shooting Sports Up-date
- 2013 4-H Calendar
- ShoWorks Software – Motion to support and pay for maintenance fees for future years

### **February Agenda Items**

- Wanda Drovers Revised Constitution
- 2013 Enrollment

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

- **Pre-Fair Entry Forms – Deadline is Friday, June 14**
- **2013 Adams County Fairfest Dates**

Its official! The 2013 Adams County Fair is **July 17 to July 21**. Static Exhibits will be entered Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> and Livestock check-in the evening of Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Livestock Auction will be Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Livestock show schedule will be the same as last year.



### **What Project Should I Take?**

Selecting the right 4-H projects can be one the hardest parts of a 4-H project. There are so many to choose from and different levels for many. Careful planning and decision making up front will increase member satisfaction, improve completion and reduce frustrations. A resource to help you make a decision is the Pick-A-Project Guide available on the web at: <http://4h.unl.edu/web/4hcurriculum/pickyourproject>. The Pick-A-Project guide lists the projects and resources with a brief description of all the projects available in Nebraska 4-H. The key to selecting projects is do not pick too many projects. Accepting responsibility is an important 4-H life skill. Completing a project is a good way for a 4-H'er to demonstrate he or she can accept responsibility. It is better to complete one project than to enroll in too many, become overwhelmed and not complete any. Parents and club leaders might encourage their members to do more work in a few projects than just a tiny amount in many different projects. Often there are related projects that members might enroll in – such as foods and horticulture, home environment and woodworking, or horse and veterinary science. Selecting the right level and knowing when to move on. Many of the projects have several levels. The Pick-A-Project guide gives a level suggestion for each project unit, but more important is the ability of the individual member. Many areas have beginning, intermediate and advanced project units that allow for progression from year to year. Parents and members need to find the best level for each child. Older members may start at a higher level if the beginning projects are too elementary for them. It is suggested to not be in a beginning level project and an advanced level. For example, avoid being in Six Easy Bites and Foodworks or Woodworking I and III or Sew for Fun and Clothing Level II. It is also suggested to progress to the next level after you feel you have accomplished your current level or have been in that level for several years. If you need help selecting which level you need to be in please contact the Adams County Extension Office.

#### **Here are a few questions to consider when selecting a project.**

- What do you like to do for fun?
- What do you want to learn?
- What do you already know about your interest area(s)?
- How many years have you taken this project or project level?
- What do you need to complete your projects? (space, equipment, supplies, financial resources?)
- How much time do you have to commit to the project?
- Who can help you with the project?

### **What do you learn in 4-H?**

4-H participants learn practical skills such as fitness, meal preparation, rocket building, clothing care, animal and human nutrition, first aid, woodworking, gardening, and many other skills through the more than 150 projects available. Other skills that are defined as life skills are a part of every 4-H project. These skills are used every day of our lives and include:

- solving problems
- communicating
- preparing for a career
- serving others
- choosing healthy lifestyles
- managing change and challenges

The 4-H organization wants its members to receive more from their projects than ribbons, trophies, trips and monetary gains. The 4-H program wants its members to acquire project knowledge and life skills. Many youth based organizations have worked to instill life skills in young people through various activities, but 4-H youth development professionals have evidence that 4-H programs benefit participants by helping them develop valuable life skills that will enable them to become better citizens. According to the research, members use the responsibility skills they developed from 4-H projects to complete homework assignments, be on time at work, and care for younger siblings. These skills are benefiting youth in school, at home, and on the job to be more dependable, confident and qualified individuals. In particular, knowledge gained from raising 4-H animal projects assisted students in their understanding of biology, physiology, and genetics.

## **FLL Volunteer Information**

Volunteer now to assist with a Nebraska FLL Tournament! Nebraska *FIRST* LEGO League is growing! This year there will be five Qualifying Tournaments before the FLL Championship Tournament. Each qualifier will give about 24 teams of youth, ages 9-14, the opportunity to show off their science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills in a fun, sports-like environment. All FLL events include Robot, Project, and Core Values competitions. Forty-eight teams will advance to the Championship Tournament.

- Championship - Ashland - February 16

*Many volunteers are needed to make each event a success.* There is a volunteer role for anyone who would like to help out, from setting up, to judging, to serving as a team escort. Some jobs need a bit of technical expertise, where others are perfect for anyone interested. High school youth are welcome to volunteer too! Volunteers receive lunch, a thank-you gift, and lots of appreciation and recognition.

**To volunteer:** Go online to <http://4hset.unl.edu/4hdrupal/node/638>. Review the list of volunteer roles and complete the registration form. Then complete and mail the Volunteer Screening and FLL Release forms to complete your registration. Send both forms to the address indicated on the Volunteer Screening form.

**Questions:** Contact Kathy Morgan, FLL Event Coordinator at [kmorgan3@unl.edu](mailto:kmorgan3@unl.edu) or 402-472-5027.

## **Youth Information**

### **Adams County 4-H Robotics Group**

The next meetings will be on the following Sundays, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and April 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room at the Adams County Office Building. Youth ages 8 to 18 are welcome to participate. If interested, stop by that day or call the Extension Office (402)461-7209 for more details. Hope to see you there!

### **Mark Your Calendar**

- 2013 PASE and Life Challenge events will be held July 1 - 2 on East Campus in Lincoln.
- Adams County Workshop Week will be held – June 24<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Recruiting youth for 2015 & 2017 CWF Conferences**

Youth who are 14 to 18 years old in the years of 2015 & 2017 are invited and welcomed to sign up for a trip of a lifetime! Youth will experience the cities of Chicago, New York City, Washington D.C. and more. We will stay at the 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland for a week of the Citizen Washington Focus Conference. We have fundraising opportunities throughout the year to help with the cost of the conference. If you are interested in attending any future conferences, please contact UNL Extension in Adams County at (402)461-7209. It is never too early to sign up!

### **Adams County Camp: June 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

Calling all youth ages 8 to 12 years old from Adams, Clay, Fillmore & Webster Counties to attend our **County Camp** at the South Central Camp in Alma from **June 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013!!** Again this year we will take a bus for those that would like transportation to camp. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Adams County Extension Office. The cost of the county camp is \$135 with transportation or \$120 without transportation. Camp will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and end at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Come have the **full camping experience** plus 4-H activities! This camp is not only for 4-H'ers, so tell all of your friends! Please register by contacting UNL Extension in Adams County at (402)461-7209. Beth hopes to see you there!



## **Camp Counselors needed for County Camp!**

Become a camp counselor! We need boys and girls that are 14 and older to be a counselor at County Camp from June 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. It is recommended that counselors attend the State Camp Counselor Training. Dates and locations for Counselor Training will be coming out soon! By attending the counselor training, you may be a counselor more than just the County Camp! If interested, please let Beth know!



## **Scholarships Available**

Seniors and even some juniors in high school should be looking at scholarships to continue their education. There are numerous agricultural companies, organizations and colleges that offer scholarships to students who have long term career goals in agriculture. There are of course a lot of local and county scholarships and in addition to these you will there are a lot of national scholarships, as well as numerous ag scholarships offered at the state level. Now is the time to put together a good resume – it helps! It also helps to have a good cover letter to include with your application.

- **Scholarships on the Web:**
  - <http://brownfieldagnews.com/site-map/scholarships/>
  - Agricultural Scholarships and can be found at <http://www.agriculturescholarships.us/>
  - all kinds of scholarships can be found at: <http://www.nextstudent.com/directory-of-scholarships>
- **Nebraska 4-H Scholarships** -- there are several statewide Nebraska 4-H scholarships. Go to [www.ne4hfoundation.org/scholarships.htm](http://www.ne4hfoundation.org/scholarships.htm) for a list and more information. Deadline is March 1.
- **CASNR Scholarship** - Any graduating senior planning to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln CASNR with an ACT of 26 or higher may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. Contact Ron or Beth for more details.
- **Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards** -- two scholarships to UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources or College of Education and Human Sciences. Note: Deadline is March 15.
- **Ag. Scholarship** -- The Hastings Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee is offering a scholarship for students with at least a C average pursuing a college or university education and major in an agricultural field. The student must attend a 2 or 4 year college or university within Nebraska to qualify. Please contact the Extension Office to receive an application form
- **Marilyn Spiker Memorial Scholarship** – Any woman who will begin first or second year college studies taking an agricultural course is eligible to apply for a \$500 scholarship offered by WIFE (Women Involved in Farm Economics). Please contact the Extension Office to receive an application form.

## **Rural Youth Loans**

As you begin looking for your project for next year, you may want to consider an opportunity that is available to you. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency makes operating loans of up to \$5,000 to eligible individuals between the ages of 10-20 to finance income producing, agriculture-related projects. The individual must be participating in 4-H, FFA, or a similar organization. The program must be planned and supervised with the assistance of the organization's supervisor and the individual's parent or guardian. This assistance will help the individual to produce a sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience in agriculture-related skills. The loan funds may be used to purchase livestock, feed, seed, equipment, and supplies for the project. They may also be used to buy, rent, or repair needed tools or equipment. Rural Youth Loans have a maximum loan amount of \$5,000 (total principal balance owed at any one time on the loan) and the term can range from one to seven years. After the loan is made the interest rate will not change for the entire term of the loan. A parental signature is required on the application for the loan, but not on the promissory note or the other documents used to secure the loan. You can contact your local County FSA for more information.



## **FCS America Project Loans**

Farm Credit Services of America will also help students to obtain financing for up to \$2500 for 4-H and FFA production projects that will be repaid within an annual production cycle, including such things as feeder pigs, feeder calves, and feeder lambs. For those of you interested in starting a breeding herd, individual student breeding livestock loans, up to \$10,205, offer future producers first-hand experience in business planning and farm financing. Other types of projects will also be considered. **Scholarships:** They also will be giving scholarships of \$2,000 to qualified college juniors and seniors and will offer \$500 annual scholarships to qualified freshman and sophomore students studying agriculture or ag business at land grant colleges in our area. For more information on this student loan program got to: <http://www.fcsamerica.com/products/youngbeginningprogram.aspx>

## **Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards**

The Nebraska 4-H Foundation and the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) are pleased to again offer the Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) which recognize 4-H clubs for the work of the individuals in the club and the community service work of the entire club. Twenty-five clubs have been recognized each year since 1997. Recognition is in the form of \$500 checks issued to the club's treasury to be used as described in the award application form completed by the club. A public presentation of the checks will be made to the winning clubs during the PASE event on East Campus UNL on Monday evening, July 1, 2013. Clubs may use the award dollars for many different programs. Conferences or workshops for others in the community, trips or tours for club members, community improvement projects in their home town, campus visits, fair grounds enhancement, inter-generational programs, and the development of a youth council are just a few examples of the ways the award can be used. While the majority of the clubs choose a project that benefits many others in their community some have chosen to celebrate their success by providing more experiences for club members. Applications are available on-line at <http://www.ne4hfoundation.org/agexcellenceaward.htm>

## **4-H Project Information**

### **Shooting Sports**



#### **Calendar for Adams County Shooting Sports Activities:**

- Shooting Sports Starts – Week of January 28<sup>th</sup>
- Shotgun Starts – February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Shooting Sports Picnic – April 7<sup>th</sup>

## **Communications**

### **Speech, PSA, & Performing Arts Contest**

If your love is public speaking or entertaining an audience this contest is for you! Now is the time to start gearing up for this contest. You can register until March 13<sup>th</sup> and the contest is on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. Classes available are:

- Speech for Jr. Int. Sr.
- PSA for Jr. Int. Sr.
- Performing Arts – Drill or Dance Routine (Individual or Group), Song Group, Combo or Band, Individual Vocal, Individual Instrumental, Whole Club Performance, Duet – Vocal, Duet – Instrumental, Other: such as one-act plays, musical performances, pantomimes etc.



## Photography

The 2013 photography themes are:



- ***Unit II, Class 60 - NEBRASKA PHOTOGRAPHY CAREER EXHIBIT PRINT***

Explore a career as a Nebraska photographer. The goal of an artistic photographer is to portray a unique or interesting image through their work. Capture photos of *Nebraska landscapes* where creative composition is the goal.

- ***Unit III, Class 60 - NEBRASKA PHOTOGRAPHY CAREER EXHIBIT PRINT***

Explore a career as a Nebraska photographer. Portrait photographers specialize in individual or family portraits. Capture photos of *individuals or groups of people* and consider creative locations or props for your photo shoots.

## Family and Consumer Science

### Clover Challenge & Life Challenge

We are looking for interested 4-H'ers, 12 years of age or older to represent Adams County on the different family and consumer science teams. **An organizational meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Adams County Office Building.** Please call (402) 461-7209, if you are willing to make a time commitment to the Adams County Challenge teams. The Clover Challenge Contest and the Life Challenge Contest dates are official, July 1 – 2 at UNL, East Campus. You will have a good time while you learn. If you need more details, contact Julie at the Adams County Extension Office.

### Fashion Board Meeting

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room** for this meeting. The Fashion Board is open to any 4-H'er, 12 years and older involved in Clothing and Consumer Education. The purpose of this board is to enhance personal development in clothing selection and construction, build leadership skills, and explore career choices in the fashion industry.

### Service Project

Want to participate in a 2013 Service Project? We have some ideas for you.

Ideas for Donations: Lap-gahans for Veterans & Cancer patients

Hats for Premature Babies & Cancer patients

Ways to participate:

- 1) Donate some Yarn: the skeins can be partial or full, all weights and types (except those used for Hooking). (Good way to clean out left-over yarn in your craft supplies). We have a retired lady that loves to crochet or knit, has plenty of time and loves to donate these items; her only problem is shortage of yarn. She is willing to share patterns with you via email. 2) Crochet/Knit the items yourself: you will be able to exhibit them at the 2013 County fair as a Service Item before we give them to her to distribute. "I can't Crochet or Knit but would like to learn" contact the Extension Office for assistance in locating a leader to help. For further details contact Gwen by calling 402-461-7209 or via email [gwen.rodocker@unl.edu](mailto:gwen.rodocker@unl.edu) .

### 4-H Quilts of Valor Challenge

Nebraska 4-H youth, families, and/or volunteers are being asked to participate in a statewide community service effort by creating and donating quilts to the service men and women who are protecting our country and who are "touched by war." The quilts will be collected and given through the Quilts of Valor Foundation, who has already donated over 36,000 quilts. 4-H members and volunteers can work alone or in groups to make the quilts. In addition to the free fabric donated by national fabric companies, 4-H youth may also choose to contact a Quilt Guild, American Legion, other service organization, or a local quilt shop in his/her community to help provide funds or fabric, batting, or machine-quilting to complete your project. Quilts made with the free Quilts of Valor fabric must be finished and delivered to the Nebraska State Fair in 2013.

## **Thank You for the Quilts**

During the 2012 Nebraska State Fair we collected 82 QOV that were delivered to Sara Kenny and Julia Schroeder from the National Quilts of Valor Foundation. The quilts were sent to the Nebraska National Guard, the large military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany and to Kandahar, Afghanistan. Today thank you cards were received from Intensive Care Unit nurses from Kandahar, Afghanistan. The nurses in Afghanistan wrote notes of thanks for quilts that were given to injured soldiers. Below is what they wrote....

- Thank you very much for your beautiful quilt. Your support of our soldiers means a lot. Your quilt was given to a Army Soldier who was injured in an IED blast. It was proudly displayed during his Purple Heart Ceremony and will travel with him as they make their way home. ICU Nurses, Role 3 Kandahar
- Happy Holidays to you and your family. We wanted to thank you for the quilt you made. The person was very amazed at how the quilt was made and the pattern is awesome. The person was very appreciative of such a beautiful blanket. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our Soldiers, Sailors and Marines. Please take care and we look forward to many more of your special quilts. Take care of yourself. Sincerely Yours, ICU Team
- Happy Holidays to you and your family. We wanted to say thank you very much for the quilt. Your quilt was given to a 26 year old U.S. Army Special Forces male who sustained an IED blast and his injuries consisted of bilateral lower traumatic extremities later amputation of both lower extremities. The patient was transferred to Landstuhl, Germany and with prayers will make it back to the U.S.A. We are grateful for your time and energy you put into the quilt and so is the Army Soldier Special Forces. Sincerely Yours, ICU Team

## **Quilts of Valor Workshop – March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Quilting to Honor and Comfort our Wounded. If you love to make quilts or would you like to try your hand at making them, then this workshop is for you. Mark your calendar for this starting date, we will be adding numerous sewing sessions to complete a group project that will be donated to the Quilts of Valor Foundation and then be given to wounded military personnel. The workshop will be held at Julie's Xpressions from 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This will be a come and work (at any time for any length of time) at no cost for the workshop.

## **Environmental Ed & Earth Science**

### **Innovative Youth Corn Challenge**

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and the Nebraska Corn Board have teamed up to offer the second Innovative Youth Corn Challenge Contest. This contest, open to 4-H members (age 10 & older as of Jan. 1) or FFA members (in-school members), will guide youth through all aspects of corn production, as well as the agricultural careers related to corn production. Youth will be challenged to implement a production practice different than normal to determine if they increased their yield. Economics and sustainability of the practice will also be considered. Yields, cropping history, and production information will be collected in the Corn Yield Challenge management summary. As a team, youth will work with an adult mentor throughout the process. Mentors can be extension faculty, ag teachers, or other qualified agronomy professionals. Cash prizes and plaques will be given to the first, second, and third place teams. First place will receive \$1,000, second place will receive \$500, and third place will receive \$250. A data completion and innovation award will also be given. Faced with persistent drought, an addition this year will be a "limited resource" award, which will be based on participants achieving a higher yield with limited inputs. This could be limited water, management practices, fertilizer, other inputs, etc. To participate, youth must complete and return an entry form by **March 1, 2013** to the Fillmore County Extension Office in Geneva, NE. Entry forms can be downloaded at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth>. For more information, contact Brandy VanDeWalle at [bvandewalle2@unl.edu](mailto:bvandewalle2@unl.edu) or 402-759-3712.

## Crops Webpage for Youth

The objective of this webpage is to provide a one spot stop with crop production information, some of it specific for Nebraska and some general crop information that can be used for a variety of locations. The webpage is divided into four main sections: crop and plant science facts, activities for youth, 4-H & FFA projects, and teaching activities & resources. "Crop and plant science facts" provides a short summary of crop statistics and other fun facts. "Activities for youth" has some fun crossword puzzles, word searches and other interactive activities for youth to participate. The 4-H and FFA project page has some of the opportunities available through 4-H and FFA such as Crop Science Investigation workshop series and other events related to crops. Finally, the "Teaching Activities and Resources" page currently has nine lessons available for anyone to download and teach hands-on activities to any age group. Check it out at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth>

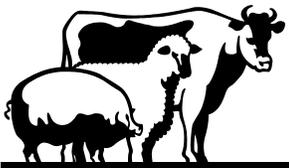
## Special Gardening Project – Reserve Your Seeds

Winter is a good time to start thinking about spring projects. 4-H members will again have a chance to grow an unusual and fun project in their gardens. This year it is focused around the unique **Amethyst Bean**. Amethyst is a fancy purple bean that grows on an upright bush plant. The purple edible pods are thin, straight and are about 5-5½" long. When cooked the beans turn green. Beans should be planted after the last frost free date, usually around the second week of May, and can be planted in containers. 4-H'ers enrolled in the Special Garden Project will:

- Receive seeds for the Amethyst Bean (one 'packet' per youth) in early April
- a newsletter about: planting & growing beans, bean problems & insects, exhibiting beans
- 4-H members are able to enter the beans in the horticulture class and other projects in the Special Garden Project Class at County Fair and State Fair.
  - Fresh Amethyst Beans should be entered in the Snap Beans Class G-773-202
  - **\*\*NEW\*\* for 2013 – State Fair Special Garden Project Class G-775-001**

Youth must be enrolled in the Amethyst Bean 2013 Special Garden Project to exhibit. Educational exhibit based on what was learned from the project. Present information on a poster 14" X 22" or in a clear plastic report cover. Fresh cut flowers or harvested vegetables should be entered in the appropriate class. The 4-H member's name, age, full address, and county must be on the back of the poster or report cover.

We have **ordered a limited number** of seed packets. The **cost is \$1.00 per family packet**. If interested in the project, please contact the Adams County Extension Office at (402) 461-7209. **Please note:** that in Adams County you will still need to enroll in one of the regular horticulture projects to participate in this activity.



## Livestock

### Attention: 2013 Sheep & Goat Weigh Day

- Sheep & Goat Weigh Day – Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## Animal Science Series

Are you interested in learning more about livestock animals? Then attend the Animal Science Series! This is for any **youth that is 12 to 18 years old** and has an interest in beef, goats, poultry, sheep, and swine. You do not have to show an animal to be a part of the series. Youth have the option of participating in Premier Animal Science Events (PASE) on July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lincoln, NE. Our first meeting will be **Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.** in the **Assembly Room** of the Adams County Office Building. We would love to have you join!

### **2013 Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic Cattle Judging Contest**

Each year, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in partnership with the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic conducts a youth cattle judging contest. The 2013 contest will be held this year on **February 23** at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds. The registration form and more information regarding the contest can be found at <http://cattlemens.org/classicjudgingcontest.html>

### **American Society Of Animal Science's Junior Member Magazine**

The American Society of Animal Sciences is launching a new magazine for Junior members. It is for elementary and middle school students to learn more about animal science and the careers available to them. For more information please visit their website at <http://takingstock.asas.org/?p=5323>. You can also contact Alli Raymond, Admissions Coordinator Animal Science Department, UNL, PO BOX 830908, Animal Science Building, Lincoln, NE 68583 or at 402-472-0204.

### **Adams County 4-H Carcass Contest**

The carcass contest is a project where youth may enter a beef, sheep, and/or swine to understand the cycle of livestock production. The contest consists of three parts: the carcass, the interview, and the record book. To successfully participate in the contest, all three segments must be fulfilled. Below are important dates for you to know about if thinking of taking this project.

- Sheep/Swine: July 8<sup>th</sup> – Drop Off (a.m.)      July 9<sup>th</sup> – Viewing (p.m.)
- Beef:                      July 9<sup>th</sup> – Drop Off (a.m.)      July 11<sup>th</sup> – Viewing (p.m.)
- ALL SPECIES:              July 16<sup>th</sup> – Record books due by 8 p.m.      July 20<sup>th</sup> – Interviews (afternoon)

### **Spring Rabbit Show**

Rabbit exhibitors mark your calendars for another opportunity to learn and practice your showmanship. Lancaster County is hosting a spring rabbit show on Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center in Lincoln. For more information, call Bob at 402-477-6888 or Marty at 402-441-7180.

### **Horse Stampede**

Mark your calendars! The 2013 4-H Horse Stampede has been scheduled for Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln, NE at the University of Nebraska East Campus. Entries are due Monday, February 11, 2013 in the Adams County Extension Office. The 4-H Horse Stampede is when the state contests for Horse Bowl, Horse Public Speaking, Horse Demonstrations and Horse Art are held. Anyone interested in being part of the Horse Stampede Quiz Bowl teams, contact the Adams County Extension Office at 402-461-7209. More information and contest rules can be found at:

<http://animalscience.unl.edu/web/anisci/ANSCEExtensionEquine 4HHorseStampede>



### **Horse Show Dates**

#### **2013 District Horse Show Dates & Locations**

- June 11 – Chadron
- June 12 – McCook
- June 13 – Lexington
- June 14 – Beatrice
- June 18 – O'Neill
- June 19 – West Point

**The 2013 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show will be July 15-18.**

- ❖ *Reminder Horse Id's and District and State Entries are due in the Adams County Extension Office by 5:00 p.m. on May 10<sup>th</sup>.*

## Dog

### Dog Obedience Classes

Dog Program Obedience classes offered by Adams County Extension will begin with an informational meeting on Monday, March 4, 2013. This meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Activities Building at the Adams County Fairgrounds.

Objectives of the meeting include a discussion of the overall dog program, a demonstration of obedience performance expectations and an opportunity to enroll for the year. Thus, if you plan to participate in the dog program, you are highly encouraged to attend. Please **do not** bring your dog to this first meeting. The cost is \$10.00 to participate in the dog classes. Vaccination record forms for all participating dogs will be distributed and must be completed by a veterinarian or person providing the shots before beginning the classes.

Requirements for participation are: 1) Enrollment in 4-H and in the dog project, 2) Vaccination form completed and 3) Class fee paid to the Extension Office before attending any class. The actual classes will begin at the fairgrounds on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



### Nebraska 4-H Dog Expo – The date of the program has changed.

The Nebraska 4-H Dog Expo will be held at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Hastings on **April 19 and 20, 2013**. The schedule will include competitions, demonstrations, education clinics, and fun. The competitions will include obedience, showmanship, and agility. The program will begin with fun activities on Friday evening and continue on Saturday with the competitions and demonstrations. Please put this on your calendar so we can once again have good local representation.

### Cat Workshop – Save the Date: Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

Please hold Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> for a Cat Workshop starting at 1:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room at the Adams County Office Building (Located 300 N. St. Joseph Ave, Hastings NE). More information is to come!

## UNL Opportunities

### UNL as a Choice for College - RED Letter Days

An all-day UNL open house experience for high school seniors! Red Letter Days feature:

- Academic Sessions presented by college representatives
- Student Life Sessions focusing on student opportunity & campus life
- The chance to tour campus & visit academic facilities

Information on admissions, scholarships, & financial aid. View a sample schedule and register at [http://admissions.unl.edu/open\\_house/red\\_letter\\_days/index.aspx](http://admissions.unl.edu/open_house/red_letter_days/index.aspx)

Red Letter Days have been scheduled for:

- February 4, 2013 – Pre-Health Red Letter Day.
- February 15, 2013 – All Majors Red Letter Day.
- February 18, 2013 – All Majors Red Letter Day.
- March 15, 2013 – All Majors Red Letter Day.
- April 12, 2013 – All Majors Red Letter Day.

### Just In – Quick Response Needed - Local grants are now available!

Nebraska 4-H is proud to be a part of the Invest an Acre program supported by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, ADM, Monsanto, and Feeding America. 4-H Clubs, counties/districts, classroom teachers, youth organizations, after-school and summer programs are invited to submit proposals on how they can address hunger in Nebraska. Grants will range from \$250 to \$1,000 to implement their plan. **Applications are due** to Heather Borek (contact information is in grant application) by **February 15, 2013**. For complete guidelines and application process please visit [www.adams.unl.edu](http://www.adams.unl.edu).

# 4-H Calendar

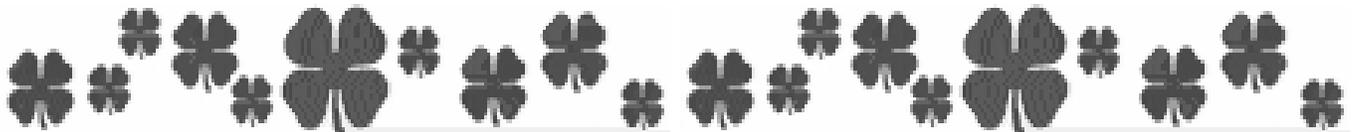
## **FEBRUARY**

February 4	4-H Council Meeting
February 5	“Giving your Best” Webinar Series
February 7	Extension Board Meeting
February 10	4-H Kick Off
February 10	Jr. Leader’s Meeting
February 11	Horse Stampede entry deadline
February 12	Clover/Life Challenge Organizational Meeting
February 12	Ag Society Meeting
February 18	Extension Office Closed
February 24	Animal Science Series Organizational Meeting

## **MARCH**

March 2	Quilts of Valor Workshop
March 3	Fashion Board Organizational Meeting
March 4	4-H Council Meeting
March 4	Dog Obedience Organizational Meeting
March 7	Extension Board Meeting
March 11	Leader/Parent Meeting
March 11	Dog Classes Start
March 12	Ag Society Meeting
March 13	Speech/Performing Arts Registration Deadline
March 17	Speech/Performing Arts Contest

Please Check the Adams County Web site at <http://www.adams.unl.edu/> for current calendar information.



### 2013 4-H Council

Todd Lay – Pres.  
Shannon Frink  
Scott Hinrichs  
Darci Karr  
Bryce Katzberg

Jerry Allen – V.Pres.  
Brett Mohling  
Noel Nienhueser  
Rebecca Owen

Wryan Wright – Sec.  
JR LEADER REPS:  
Kayla Hurd  
Carli Johnson  
Morgan Stromer

Twila Bankson – Tres.  
Doug Nienhueser – Chamber  
of Commerce Rep  
Julie Ochsner – Ag Society  
Rep

**Please take time to THANK these above individuals for their  
hard work and dedication to the Adams County 4-H Program!!!**

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