



Nebraska Extension in Gage County

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In This Issue:

- Summer Camping Fun
- UNL Red Letter Days
- 4-H Speech Workshop
- Homestead 4-H Garden Club
- BB Gun & Air Rifle Tournament
- Next Chapter - 8th Grade Celebration
- Essential Livestock Information
- County Public Speaking Contest
- Enclosure: **Anytime Learning 2017 - Spring & Summer Workshops & Projects**
- 4-H Relationships to Crow About
- Camp Renegade
- Horse Project Info
- Gage County Fair & Expo
- Nebraska State Fair
- Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Show
- Calendar of Events
- Announcements

CELEBRATE THE GOOD LIFE IN 4-H!

Celebrate the good life in 4-H, Gage County, and Nebraska. In 2017 we're excited to celebrate Nebraska 150, the August eclipse extravaganza, National Parks 100th anniversary, and so much in Nebraska that gives us all the good life. As we network with community, we provide youth with experiences, including the Gage County Fair, that empower them with life skills, leadership and success for further education and careers. 4-H grows healthy kids, happy kids, strong kids, skilled kids. 4-H kids grow character, life skills, responsibility, respect, compassion, curiosity, creativity, confidence, leadership, and teamwork. 4-H - making Gage County a great place to raise kids.

4-H is about more than the ribbons and awards... It's about the people, the experiences, the life-long skills, the memories, the county fair. It's about being a role model, giving back, and MAKING THE BEST BETTER. Thanks for making 4-H one of your family priorities. Celebrate the good life!





Summer 4-H Camping Fun

Discover, learn and grow at the 2017 4-H summer camps and trips. 4-H camps provide endless opportunities for growth in a fun, fast-paced outdoor atmosphere. Camps are offered for all ages groups, plus day camps and family camps, in various lengths of time at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center, Gretna, and the Nebraska State 4-H Camp, Halsey. 4-H membership is NOT required; get together with your friends. Save 10% when you register by April 15. Also multiple child (same household) family discounts offered. Pick up camp brochure at the Extension Office.

Website: <http://4h.unl.edu/summer-camp>

Remember to use your 4-H activity scholarships and S A V E! Many youths receive scholarships at the 4-H Achievement program. Check out these camps, as well as Camp Renegade near Fairbury and utilize your scholarship dollars, have a great time, make new friends, and enjoy the outdoors.

2017 UNL Red Letter Days

High school seniors have the opportunity to visit the UNL campus - March 17, April 21. Learn about UNL, admissions, majors, housing, student life, etc. Fee: \$10.00. Pre-registration required. Website:

<http://admissions.unl.edu/events/on-campus/red-letter-days.aspx>

National Ag Day - March 21



Know a farmer? Ever thank a farmer for working for you providing healthy food - 7 days a week/ 12 months each year? American Agriculture: Abundant. Affordable. Amazing.

Did you know the Nebraska soil is "Holdrege"? Or that Nebraska has over 46,000 farms, with an average size of 972 acres? Nebraska ranks 3rd in corn production, 5th in soybean production, and 10th in hay production.

Consider this...just about everything we eat, wear and use comes from American agriculture. Today's farmer feeds about 144 people in the U.S. and abroad. In 1960, the number was 46. American farmers provide consumers with the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world. It's important that we're all part of the increased public awareness about American agriculture. Eat well today? Thank a farmer!

Website: www.agday.org

Empty Bowls Luncheon - March 21

Support the Beatrice Backpack Program and enjoy the soups of Beatrice fine restaurants and caterers, Tuesday, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, Classic's Restaurant. Purchase your ticket for \$25.00 and receive a free pottery bowl crafted by BHS and SCC art students, Ervin Dixon, Patrick McKinney or Down Under Pottery. Tickets at Pinnacle Bank or Security First Bank.

Email: patty.kaufman@exmark.com

Spring Rabbit Show - March 25

Youth and families are invited to participate and learn at the show at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln. Show begins at 9:00 am with classes for fancy, commercial and pet rabbits. Flyer available.

4-H Speech Workshop - March 26

Public speaking and presentation skills are current and future life skills that all youth will use. We're pleased to host Gage County senior division public speakers, Jetta Harvey and Mel Kostal, presenting a 4-H public speaking workshop, Sunday, 3:00 pm, Extension meeting room. They will help youth of all ages prepare and

present a speech and PSA. Don't miss this as you prepare for the County Contest, April 20. Pre-registration requested by March 20; call the Extension Office at 402-223-1384. Younger kids should bring your favorite poems with you. Older participants, be thinking of your favorite 4-H topic and they'll help you develop your speech for the contest.

Bake & Take Days - March 25-26

The Nebraska Wheat Growers Association and Nebraska Wheat Board host the annual Bake & Take Days, begun in 1970. Bake and take a fresh, delicious, homemade item to someone to let them know you are thinking of them - friends, neighbors, co-workers, family. We have a sticker and pamphlet to include with your baked item. Bake & Take Days are a great community project to show caring and citizenship.

Homestead 4-H Garden Club - March 27

Christine Allison said, "Reading is good but the garden is the best teacher." What kid doesn't like to get their hands dirty in the soil. We offer the 4-H Garden Club to teach that learning - and you are invited to join.

Next meeting is Monday, March 27, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Extension meeting room. Master Gardeners, Debbie Hermance and Shirley Shaffer, will help you complete a cigar box planter. Bring 2-3 live small succulents or cacti. We will provide the wooden cigar box, soil and rocks. No fee. Please come if you are interested; pre-registration preferred by March 23. If you are interested and cannot attend this meeting, contact the Extension office. We need more members to keep the club going. Let us know if you have questions.



4-H BB Gun and Air Rifle Tournament - March 27

We're holding a spring tournament to encourage all kids to come out and compete and enjoy the fun.

Open to 4-H and non-4-H youth, 6:00 pm, 4-H Building, Gage County fairgrounds. Age divisions for competition in BB guns and Air rifles. Competitors must have an adult/parent/coach on the line with them. Gun must be brought to range in a case. Range rifles available. Check in 5:30 pm. Contact Mike Jochum, 402-228-0206.

Burt County Beef Preview - April 1

You're invited to the spring show at the fairgrounds in Oakland with classes for market steers and heifers and breeding heifers. Entry due March 27. Flyer available.

Nebraska 4-H Roping Clinic - April 1-2

Youth are invited to the Roping Clinic, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Lilienthal Indoor Arena, Grand Island. Main instructors are Justin and Garrett Nokes. Saturday features breakaway and tie down roping, ground work and tying calves; Sunday focuses on team roping, roping on the ground followed by live cattle. Pre-registration due March 26.

UNL Next Chapter - 8th Grade Students - April 4

Next Chapter is a partnership between Nebraska 4-H and UNL; 8th grade students have the opportunity to be pre-admitted to UNL, connect with other youth and UNL resources. Eighth grade students should have received a pre-admit letter from UNL. Students who meet academic requirements will be admitted after high school. 8th grade students should add this to your 4-H online enrollment (Leadership, Citizenship & Personal Development curriculum area). Each year, students will need to complete the current year's program to advance to the next level. We will have more information soon. Youth and parents, please note the district celebration on Tuesday, April 4, at the Extension Office in Beatrice. Statewide celebration will be April 25 at UNL.

Essential Livestock Information for 4-H & FFA Families - March 18 OR April 8

4-H and FFA exhibitors and families are invited to learn about livestock nutrition from Steve Park, and get the current updates on VFD requirements, Premises ID, EID tags and identification, etc. Session is offered in Dorchester on March 18, 10:00 am, and at the Gage County Extension Office on April 8, 1:30 pm. Pre-registration requested by April 3, 402-223-1384.

Seward Calf Classic - April 8

Youth are invited to participate in the market heifer & steer and breeding beef classes at the event at the fairgrounds in Seward. Pre-entries due April 5.

Quality Beef Day - April 8

4-H, FFA and Open Class exhibitors are invited to the Beef Day in Marysville, KS. No entry fees. Call for the flyer.

Saunders County Beef Progress Show - April 15

Beef exhibitors, note the date of the show in Wahoo. Entries due April 5. Call for the flyer.

Horse Care Workshop - April 18

So many 4-H members and adults work with and love your horses. Please join us for an educational meeting with Dr. Aric Brandt presenting Equine Dental information and Dr. Kathy Anderson with Hoof Care information. Date is Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Plymouth Community Center. RSVP by April 17; call 402-223-1384.

County Public Speaking Contest - April 20

Developing a 4-H member's self-confidence and public speaking skills are the two goals of the 4-H public speaking contest. The Speech Contest is Thursday, 7:00 pm, Extension meeting room. Youth may present both a speech and a radio PSA (public service announcement). Registration due: April 14. Enclosure in April newsletter.

Age divisions: Novice (ages 7-9 first time entry in speech division), Junior (ages 10 & younger), Intermediate (ages 11-13), Senior (ages 14 & older); ages determined by January 1, 2016.

PSA division - Participant will present a 60 second radio PSA. To be eligible to advance to regional and state competitions, PSA topic is "4-H Grown".

Speech division - Speech must relate to some aspect of 4-H (except the novice division).

Winners will advance to the Southeast Regional Public Speaking Contest, May 18, 1:00 - 7:00 pm, UNL East Campus. State Contest at the Nebraska State Fair. Call for information on preparing and presenting a speech or PSA.

Poultry Judging Clinic - April 22

Interested in learning how to judge production poultry? Join in a fun day of learning on Saturday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, UNL Animal Science, East Campus. Fee: \$10.00.

Earth Day - April 22



"The earth is not like a large pizza, we can't just call in and order another one." Every day is earth day in agriculture; farmers and ranchers are the most conscientious environmental stewards. We suggest your 4-H club focus on the earth in April. Do some earth day activities with your members, families, school and/or community. Pick up trash, make posters, create fair exhibits, reduce, reuse, recycle...the list is endless. Be kind to the earth (this day & every day). Website: www.earthday.org

4-H Relationships to Crow About - 4-H Info Night - April 27

2017 is the Year of the Rooster - what better time to focus on building relationships in 4-H to crow about. Volunteers and parents, please join us for a keynote address, learn about 4-H tools to make club leadership easier, meet other volunteers, and win door prizes to crow about! We gather at 7:00 pm, at the chicken coop (Extension Office in Beatrice).

Keynote speakers are Dr. Michelle Krehbiel, UNL 4-H Youth Development Specialist, and Christina Lyons, Director of MAPS Community Coalition, as they present new ideas you can use for building relationships, finding the spark with youth, asset development, and more.

Chicken food snacks. Pick up your 2017 club packet, fairbooks, and more. Door prizes include barn passes, Entertainment Passports, and rooster prizes. Register by April 20; call 402-223-1384. Let's have each club represented!

Patterns for Purpose - April 29-30

Gena Warrington Horsemanship Professional presents the clinic in Columbus. Learn about patterns the top horseman use when training horses. Contact Esther, 402-641-4072.

Nebraska Pork Youth Conference - May 31 - June 2

"Makin Bacon... and a whole lot more" - sounds like a fun time for high school sophomore, juniors and seniors, UNL. Sessions, hands-on learning, speakers, new friends, amazing food, escape room...all provided by sponsors with no cost to participants. Register by April 1: <http://www.nepork.org>

Camp Renegade - June 13-14

Kids, ages 8-10, don't miss your first over-nite camping experience at Camp Renegade this summer. Lots of outdoor fun and education, canoeing, swimming, insects, nature, fitness, shooting sports, company time and more. Fee: \$40.00. Registration forms at our office and online. Flyer in the April newsletter.

– Wanted: Camp Counselors, age 14-18, for Camp Renegade to assist with recreation, workshops, nature, etc. Camp counselor training with supper is Tuesday, May 23, 6:00 pm, 4-H Building, Jefferson County fairgrounds. This training is a requirement for counselors. Applications at our office or online; due May 1.

Horse Project Information - REVISED HORSE SHOW & JUDGING GUIDE

Exhibitors - note the 4-H Horse Show & Judging Guide was revised in 2017. Each 4-H family will receive 1 free copy. Stop by the Extension Office. Additional copies are \$5.00 each. Changes are highlighted.

District horse shows are scheduled across Nebraska June 12-20; nearest location is Lincoln, June 20. For additional sites and dates, contact the Extension Office. All level testing for District and State Shows must be completed by entry deadline: **May 12**.

– State 4-H Horse Exposition: July 16-20, Fonner Park, Grand Island

– Horse Advancement Levels are a great way to extend the learning in the horse project. Various levels must be achieved to compete at district and state shows. Please take advantage of the winter months to get your level tests done, then complete the riding test and demonstration in spring. Pick up your Horsemanship Levels book at the Extension Office. Please call ahead to set up the written test.

NAYI - July 10-14

Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute presents the 46th NAYI for high school juniors and seniors. Agricultural learning, speakers, tours, and so much more planned for participants. Nebraska Department of Agriculture pays meals, lodging and programming expenses. Application deadline: April 15.

Website: www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi

Tractor Safety Training - Summer Locations & Dates

All youth, ages 14 and 15, working on a farm or ranch other than their own must be certified through a Hazardous Occupations Course. Training dates and sites are offered in Nebraska this summer. Nearest location is Grand Island College Park, July 10-11. Cost is \$60.00. Pre-register at 308-385-5088.



Gage County Fair & Expo - July 26-30 - "Celebrate the Good Life"

We're excited for the fair, only 5 months away! We celebrate the good life in 2017 with the Nebraska 150, National Parks 100th year, Huskers, August 21 eclipse, and more. There is no place like Nebraska. 150 years and growing strong.

Planning is in full swing for the 2017 Gage County Fair & Expo, classes, events and activities. We showcase your club, volunteers, exhibits, livestock, and special projects at the fair, along with sponsors, entertainers, races, special acts, fair food, and much more!

Fairbook is under construction and be available for pick up Friday, April 14.

WANTED: 4-H youth and volunteers for the exciting positions of junior superintendents or adult superintendents of exhibits in the 4-H Building. It's so much fun to be a part of the planning for the fair and then working to make it all come together at the fair. We'll double the pay from last year! Contact the Extension Office.

Photography 2017 Nebraska Exhibit Print - Unit 2 & 3: Reflect your definition of rural Nebraska.

Capture rural living in your Nebraska county through your camera lens. Use your photo to express what rural means to you, why you value rural life or how rural life is changing. This is your story to tell.

Nebraska State Fair - August 25 - September 4

Note to livestock exhibitors: State Fairboard voted in 2017 to add a bedding fee of \$15.00 (dairy and beef) and \$5.00 (sheep, goats, swine). Fairboard also voted to add a \$3.00 fee per head for market animals to help defray costs of drug testing. This is in addition to the existing entry fees. Contact Kathleen Lodl, State 4-H: klodl1@unl.edu



Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Show - September 28 - October 1

Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show, the nation's largest 4-H livestock show, is moving to Grand Island after 89 years in Omaha. The facilities offer state-of-the-art livestock show barns built in recent years to host the Nebraska State Fair. These facilities allow and ensure growth and sustainability of the livestock exhibition.

Dates for the Ak-Sar-Ben Horse Show will be announced soon.

2018 4-H Citizenship Washington Trip - June 2-12 (tentative)

Next trip for Gage, Jefferson and Saline County 4-H members is June 2-12, 2018. Please contact the Extension Office now if you are interested in participating in this trip. Approximate cost \$1700.00.

Spring fundraiser for all youth with a citizenship account is Eileen's Cookies - 3 lb. tub for \$13.50. Orders due March 17. Pick up cookie dough Friday, April 7, 3:30 - 5:30 pm, Extension Office.

All youth interested in 4-H citizenship trips (no matter what year) are invited to register for an account at the Extension Office. You will then be on the mailing list for fundraising and meetings.

2017 Calendar of Events

March 15	4-H Scholarships Application Deadline
March 25-26	Bake & Take Days
March 26	4-H Public Speaking Workshop, Extension Office
March 27	4-H Garden Club meeting, Extension office
March 27	BB Gun & Air Rifle Tournament, 4-H Building
April 1	Horse Stampede & Companion Animal Challenge, UNL East Campus
April 4	Next Chapter (8 th Grade) UNL Celebration, Beatrice
April 8	Essential Livestock Information Meeting, Extension office
April 15	Market Beef ID/DNA due (State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben)
April 18	Horse Care Workshop, Plymouth Community Center
April 23-29	National Volunteer Week - THANK YOU 4-H VOLUNTEERS
April 25	UNL Next Chapter (8 th Grade) State Celebration, UNL
April 27	4-H Relationships to Crow About, Extension Office
May 1	Online 4-H Youth & Volunteer Leaders Registration deadline
May 19	Regional 4-H Speech Contest, Lincoln
June 1	Horse ID Deadline (unless district entry)
June 1	Livestock Quality Assurance deadline
June 13-14	Camp Renegade, near Fairbury
June 15	Livestock ID deadline
June 20	District 4-H Horse Show, Lincoln
July 27	Table Setting Contest & Presentations Contest, Extension Office
July 8	Invitational Dairy Show, Gage County Fairgrounds
July 8	3 G's Open Horse Show, Beatrice
July 10-14	NAYI, Lincoln
July 16-20	State 4-H Horse Exposition, Grand Island
July 17	4-H Fashion Show, Hevelone Center, Beatrice High School
July 25	Entry Day – 4-H Building & Open Class Exhibits
July 26-30	Gage County Fair & Expo
Aug. 21	Solar Eclipse
Aug. 25-Sept. 4	Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island
Sept. 21-24	Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show, Omaha

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anytime Learning 2017

Spring and summer projects and workshops flyer is enclosed. Get your calls in - the projects fill up fast! Registration deadline is April 15 (unless otherwise noted) or the project has limited enrollment. Note project enrollment.

Connect with Us

We're here for you 24-7, making it easier to get information and keep up on 4-H events, activities, news, register for events, etc. - Gage County Extension & 4-H site: <http://gage.unl.edu>.; State 4-H website: <http://4h.unl.edu>.

Type "Nebraska Extension in Gage County" in the search box on Facebook. "Like" this page to get news, updates, resources, stay up to date on programs, see who's making the news, share ideas, connect with 4-H members, volunteers, and staff. Send pictures and short news clips to the Extension Office and we'll feature special events and community service for your club.

4-H FOR BRYAN

We all know and love Bryan Cook for his sports reporting and work on the Gage County Ag Society, spending time at the fair and loving 4-H kids! Bryan suffered a medical condition February 12 and is undergoing treatment in Lincoln. He's tough - and needs our support to keep fighting. Support Bryan's medical expenses with a donation to his medical fund at Pinnacle Bank. Buy your "B Strong Cook" t-shirt at Uhl's for \$15.00. Get your wrist band for \$5.00 at KWBE, as well as businesses around the area. All proceeds support Bryan's medical expenses. He serves our community; let's continue to show our support. Send your cards to Bryan and his family, 1424 N. 17th Street, Beatrice, NE 68310

4-H Clover Chase - March - August 15

Nebraska 4-H is hosting a photo scavenger hunt. Download the free app (Eventzee), complete challenges and submit photo entries on social media using #NE4HChase. After submitting photos and earning 150 points, participants will be eligible to receive a commemorative water bottle and be entered into a drawing to win a drone with video capability. Website: <http://4h.unl.edu/clover-chase>

4-H True Leaders in Service Campaign - April 1 - 29

4-H members, clubs and families pledge their hands to larger service, roll up their sleeves, and put their pledge into action. True Leaders in Service is a month-long community service activation. Take pictures of your activities and register them on the website: <http://4-h.org/true-leaders-in-service/>

Raise Your Hand - And Be Counted for 4-H

4-H Alumni, we want to hear from YOU! Raise your hand for 4-H. Complete the form: <http://4-h.org/raise-your-hand> to show your pride as an alumni. Compete for Nebraska for our chance to win up to \$20,000. Pay it forward with your tweet, post, sharing your experiences. Do it NOW - or by June 30.

Online 4-H Enrollment - Due May 1: <http://ne.4honline.com>

Let's get more kids involved in the fun of 4-H! Enrollment in Gage County is open to youth second grade through age 19. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member becomes 19. Online 4-H enrollment is better than ever - past 4-H members will see the data you entered last year updated; check it over and make sure your projects are correct for 2017 (your projects from last year will roll over). If you do NOT reside in Gage County, you need to select Gage as your county for enrollment. 2017 Gage County 4-H Project List includes all projects and curriculum areas. Use this when you enroll online as you select your project enrollment.

2017 Project Resource Central reference guide is available; it includes a list of all projects and materials/resources for each project.

2017 yearly dues for each 4-H member are \$10.00, payable at the Extension Office, by May 1. Payment of dues is NOT online. Youth pays only once, regardless of number of clubs of enrollment/youth. Checks payable to the Gage County 4-H Council.

2017 Project manuals are available at the Extension Office - one per project per family. Please return gently used manuals to help reduce costs. Please return manuals checked-out from the Extension Office.

\$50 to the Club with Largest Enrollment Increase

Get more kids enrolled in your 4-H club! The Gage County 4-H Council voted at our January meeting to present a \$50.00 check to the club with the largest percentage of enrollment increase by May 1, 2017. Go out there and spread the good news of 4-H!

Bring a Friend to 4-H

Do you L O V E 4-H ?? Do you have friends you can bring to your 4-H meetings? Have you learned something exciting to share with others? Now is the time to recruit new members and families. Tell your classmates and friends what you do in 4-H, the fun of creating exhibits, caring for animals, attending camp, or exhibiting at the fair. 4-H members are the best salespersons for 4-H!



Wanted: 4-H Volunteers

4-H volunteer leaders are wonderful, caring, organized people who work hard to make the 4-H experience fun and educational for children. How do you get started as a 4-H volunteer? 1.

Enroll as a volunteer online. 2. Complete the 4-H Volunteer Profile. 3. Visit the Nebraska 4-H website. 4. Read the monthly 4-H newsletter. 5. Get information and/or project curriculum materials from the Extension Office. 6. Attend training opportunities. 7. Network with other 4-H volunteers.

Volunteer Leader On-line Registration & Screening Due May 1

THIS YEAR all volunteers must register online and complete the screening process: ne.4honline.com. It's the same site as 4-H enrollment. You will register as new OR returning leader with or without existing family in 4-H. We have an instruction sheet printed and on our website.

4-H Club File - EIN for Club Bank Account

Nebraska 4-H, in partnership with the Nebraska 4-H Foundation, has an IRS Group Exemption Number to provide 4-H clubs exemption from paying federal income tax on funds raised and received on behalf of 4-H and allows donors to deduct contributions to 4-H clubs. To be eligible, all 4-H clubs must have an Employer Identification Number (EIN) for their bank account and have a Constitution/Bylaws with specific language required by IRS. Contact the Extension Office.

Online Livestock Quality Assurance Transition

Each 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitor of livestock, dairy, poultry & rabbits must complete 3 modules (with a score of 80% or better) by June 1 to be eligible to show at the County Fair, State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben. State 4-H is in transitional stages to the new QA program - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA); the cost will increase to \$12.00/youth. Watch for emails as the new format becomes available.

2017 Livestock Identification

-ID deadlines remain the same - June 1 - horse; June 15 - beef, sheep, swine, goats, dairy, llama, alpaca, bucket calves. County Only Livestock - fill out the paper ownership affidavit/ ID sheet by June 15 with all information, including tag or ear notch identification. Pick up tags at the Extension Office.

-MARKET BEEF EXHIBITORS: NOTE THE APRIL 15 DEADLINE for DNA/ID for State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben.

-Market Beef, sheep, swine and goats MUST be identified with an EID tag and DNA (\$6.00 each) to show at

State Fair and/or Ak-Sar-Ben. Pick up tags at Extension Office.

-Breeding animals for State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben must complete the Breeding Nomination Card, due June 15 (\$2.00 fee). Tattoo required identification for breeding heifers. Scrapie tag required for breeding ewes and breeding meat goat does.

-Youth have until State Fair entry deadline (August 10) to declare if your livestock will show as 4-H or FFA and NO changes will be allowed.

Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) & Youth Livestock Programs

Effective January 1, 2017, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) implemented the VFD regulation. Producers who use antibiotic medicated feeds to prevent, treat or control animal health issues will be required to get a written order or Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) from a Veterinarian to purchase and feed these feeds. This applies to producers raising animals, including youth owners of show or exhibit animals. If a medicated feed is determined to be the best option for treatment, work with your veterinarian to obtain a VFD. Just released by Extension/4-H is a brochure by Rob Eirich, UNL Director of Beef Quality Assurance, available at the Extension Office.

Youth At Work Leadership Grants - Due April 1

We're pleased to announce the 4-H Council will award five \$200 Youth Leadership Grants to a teen 4-H member or club. Funds to be used for club or county project, workshop or community project. Applications due April 1. Don't miss this - it's fun, you'll make a difference, and gain leadership skills!

4-H Community Service Projects

We network with BSDC in the collection of greeting cards, cancelled stamps, envelopes, and buttons. BSDC supports the St. Jude's Ranch and does projects with these recycled cards. Cut buttons off the clothing/item. Help us spread the word. Drop off items at the Extension Office.

Questions about Poultry & Rabbit Projects?

We purchased the newest editions of the Poultry & Rabbit Standard of Perfection books, available for check-out at the Extension Office.

Scholarship Information

- Gage County 4-H website: <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/gage/gage-county-4-h-information/>
- College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) offers \$1,000 scholarships to youth with an ACT score of 26 or higher
- Merlyn Anderson Memorial Scholarships - due March 15 (ag emphasis)
- Gage County Agricultural Society \$500.00 scholarships - due March 15
- Evie Crawford Memorial \$500 Scholarship (must have participated in Premium Auction at Gage County Fair) - due March 15
- Robert L. Kracke Memorial \$500 Scholarship - due March 15
- Gage County 4-H Council Youth Character \$250.00 Scholarships - due March 15
- Brandt, Rozell, Reed Memorial Scholarships - due March 15
- Vernon R. Mulig Scholarship - \$350 scholarships (2) will be awarded to students in their second year of post secondary education; due June 1 (must exhibit at Gage County their last year of 4-H)

Farm Credit Services of America - Working Here Fund Grants

Agriculture works at Farm Credit Services of America. And they work to benefit the communities they serve. Through their Working Here Fund, they provide grants of up to \$2,000 to organizations that make a positive, long-term impact in the areas that benefit hunger and nutrition, young and beginning producers, and agriculture education. Grants are awarded quarterly. Website: fcsamerica.com/workingherefund

Pop Tab Drive - On to 7 Million

Thanks to everyone for collecting tabs. Our county total is 6,983,000. Ronald McDonald House is an outreach to families who need housing in Omaha while their children are receiving medical care. Keep the tabs coming...bring in to the Extension Office. Thanks a million!

UNL - Your Future

As part of the University of Nebraska, we are pleased to provide you with information. To learn more about UNL, explore the Office of Admission's website: <http://admissions.unl.edu> or contact them at nuhusker@unl.edu or 800-742-8800. You'll find information about admission, honors, costs, undergraduate scholarships and programs, and more. Let us know if you need help contacting a specific division of the University.

If you're not able to visit on campus, take advantage of a Virtual Campus Visit. With an internet connection, you'll visit with UNL personnel and see the campus. Contact Admission Coordinator Alli Raymond, 402-472-0204; email: araymond2@unl.edu

University of Nebraska Foundation

Gage County 4-H Council Foundation funds are invested in a University of Nebraska Foundation Account. The funds yield a guaranteed 4.0% with a built in growth factor. Since this fund has been in existence for a number of years the income is closer to 6% when considering the investment amount. The current Book Value of donations is \$31,391.30. Last year Gage County 4-H Council received \$1821.03 which represents a 5.8% return on invested amount. We have been blessed with significant donations from Bowhay, Rumpeltes, Carl Wylie and others, plus Extension staff retirement funds. This fund is growing and becoming a more significant part of our 4-H budget each year. Donations in memory of past 4-H volunteers are common. Donations made to University of Nebraska Foundation – Gage 4-H Fund are fully tax deductible. Contact Paul Hay.

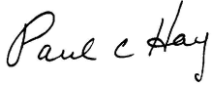
NOTES TO VOLUNTEER LEADERS - CELEBRATE THE GOOD LIFE in 4-H

- 1) Welcome to 4-H 2017! Celebrate the good life in 4-H. Thanks for making 4-H a priority for your children as they learn life skills.
- 2) Thanks, 4-H volunteers! The most successful 4-H volunteers motivate young people, build on knowledge and skills, understand the importance of their job, prepare, invite others to help, get started! You make a difference! Each club is made stronger with more involvement of adult volunteers and parents! THANKS for your time, talents, and energy given toward your club and the county program. 4-H Volunteers must complete your registration with the 4-H Online system (same as the 4-H members website) AND EVERY VOLUNTEER MUST COMPLETE THE SCREENING PROCESS IN 2017. Printed instructions available. Deadline: May 1. Website: <https://ne.4honline.com>
- 3) Youth Protection 4-H Volunteer Screening - All parents and/or leaders working with 4-H clubs and Clover Kids need to complete the form. They are covered by \$1 million of liability coverage through the University of Nebraska. Forms at the Extension Office or online: <http://4h.unl.edu/web/4h/becomevolunteer>. This is a great time to create a leadership team for your club, involving more adults and teens.
- 4) Youth Safety Guidelines - Adult volunteers need to be aware of the safety guidelines for working with youth. View the PowerPoint and information at the website: <http://4h.unl.edu/youthprotectionresources>
- 5) The successful 4-H club: yearly schedule, meetings with agenda, 4-H officers, parliamentary procedure, recreation, refreshments, project materials, parental help/support, recognition celebrations. We'll help you make your 4-H club even greater!

- 6) One of the best organizational tools is a parent/ leader/4-H officers meeting to plan club meetings & activities.
- 7) Gage County Extension website: <http://gage.unl.edu>
- 8) Gage County Extension & 4-H Facebook: Nebraska Extension in Gage County
- 9) State 4-H website: <http://4h.unl.edu>
- 10) Online enrollment in Gage County 4-H is open to youth, second grade and older. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member becomes 19. Enrollment deadline: May 1. Returning 4-H members will get updated data from last year when you enroll. Check your project list and just add new ones for 2017. Printed instructions available. Website: <https://ne.4honline.com>
- 11) 4-H membership dues are \$10.00 per person, payable only once if a youth is a member in more than one club, due to the Extension Office May 1. Dues are NOT paid online. We continue the policy of no fundraising activities for 4-H members.
- 12) A small supply of project manuals are on hand. Recycle manuals within your family and club and return unused or "gently used" manuals to the Extension Office. If you have manuals, notebooks or materials that you checked out from the Extension Office, please return.
- 13) 2017 Club Organizational Packet will be available in March for each club.
- 14) If your club will NOT be reorganizing this year, let us know. Clubs that disband cannot divide the treasury among the members. Funds must be used to pay club debts, donated to the 4-H Council or the University of Nebraska Foundation. Monies collected become the property of the Gage County 4-H Council.
- 15) The monthly 4-H newsletter, sent to each family, contains important information. We offer the option of receiving the newsletter notification in an email with a link to the newsletter rather than receiving a paper copy in the mail. Indicate this in your online enrollment. Let us know of interested families and we'll add them to the newsletter list.
- 16) ANNOUNCING 2017 Spring and Summer projects and workshops "Anytime Learning" in this newsletter. Call 402-223-1384 to register - first come/first served. We offer the workshops and learning activities you want to learn about.
- 17) 2017 4-H community service project - We network with BSDC; bring your cards, envelopes, and cancelled stamps to the Extension Office. BSCD recycles all of these items. What a great way to re-use all those cards we receive and go green. BSCD is asking for buttons to use for recycled projects; please cut off clothing items and bring to the Extension Office.
- 18) Each 4-H member will record 4-H project work, leadership and citizenship in the Career Portfolio, a cumulative summary of all 4-H years. Youth fill it out by computer or hand written. Forms due October 1 each year. Websites: www.gage.unl.edu or <http://4h.unl.edu>
- 19) Nebraska Diamond Clover Program is a six-level, non-competitive recognition for youth. Forms due October 1 each year with certificates and pins awarded at the Achievement program. This is a great club goal that each year all members achieve their level awards. Have a teen or adult volunteer carry out this program.
- 20) Clover Kids, designed for kindergarten & first grade students, is offered through Gage County 4-H. Exhibits were featured in the 4-H Building during the fair with bright green ribbon awarded. Clover Kids modeled at the 4-H Fashion Show. These future 4-H members are having a great time! Pick up the Clover Kids packet; no enrollment. Some materials are available; all programs & events must be non-competitive. Leadership is provided by club parents and volunteers. Volunteers working with Clover Kids must complete the Youth Protection 4-H Volunteer Screening Form.

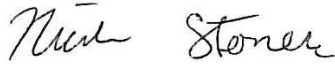
Quote of Note: *“Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don’t turn up at all.” - Sam Ewing*

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-----News Inside-----
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Essential Livestock Information
4-H Leader Information