



Polk County Extension has a look to their website. With a better layout and easier navigation, you are sure to like the changes!!

Visit us at:

<http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/polk/>



Check Polk County 4-H's Facebook Page for all the latest information on all things 4-H!



**Nebraska 4-H Month**

Each year, the UNL Extension 4-H Program observes two special time frames that provide an opportunity to share the 4-H message with those in our communities.

One of those times is the whole month of February. Celebrations of one or both of these time frames can be customized specifically to your club or county. This may include the planning of educational events, special celebrations, letters to the editor, newspaper articles or supplements, signing of a proclamation or resolution by local dignitaries, community services events, etc.

What can your club do to celebrate all that 4-H stands for?



4-H'ers from Boone, Nance, & Polk Counties enjoyed a day of taking, remaking, and embellishing. A once boring flannel shirt was turned into a trendy fashion statement. They also learned the technique of tie-dying a hoodie, and adding a lacey flair to a plain shirt or sweater.



The 4-H'ers will enjoy wearing the items they made. They learned the history of the "grunge" style from the 80's. They also did some textile experiments and observed how different solutions reacted to different fabrics. #FashionScience at it's finest! #UpcycleYourStyle Why pay more when you can make it yourself!



**2016 CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY**

Thirty Polk County 4-Hers & Clover Kids captured the holiday spirit December 22nd at the Fairgrounds for the 3rd Annual Christmas In The Country class!



What better way to kick off your Christmas Break!! All who attended made several great projects that they will be proud to exhibit at the Polk County Fair or give to a special someone for Christmas. Nature Pinecone Elves, Festive Ornamental Frames and Sparkling Luminary Lights were the projects, along Holiday Sundae Treats! We love spending the holidays with our 4-H'ers!



**ENROLLING FOR 4-H**



You will see a NEW face in the 4-H Office! Welcome to Evette Watts as our new office manager! You may email her at [evette.watts@unl.edu](mailto:evette.watts@unl.edu). We are thrilled to have her as a part of our 4-H Family!



It is time to enroll or re-enroll in Polk County 4-H. With this newsletter you will find the detailed steps to enroll or re-enroll for the 2016 program year. Please read the instructions carefully and you should not have any difficulty with the process.

IMPORTANT: For those 4-H'ers that are re-enrolling, please take the projects off of your project lists that will not be participating in this year.



4-H is full of wonderful projects! From livestock to horticulture, and textiles and design to food science, it is lifelong learning! The Project Resource Central is provided to help you in making your project selections (which is also part of the 4-H Online Enrollment process). If you need further assistance, call the Extension Office. Dues for 2016 are still just \$5. These dues can be paid online with a credit card.

You can also pay your dues by cash or check when signing up for workshops. Clover College brochures will be sent out in the March/April Newsletter.

**Tune Up Your Talent & Polish Off That Speech!**



Can you sing, dance, or play an instrument? Show off your talent and the Polk County 4-H Talent Contest. The Talent Contest will be March 22nd at 7 pm at the Midwest Covenant Home in Stromsburg.

The Talent Contest is an excellent chance to gain experience performing for an audience. Please call the Extension Office or email Evette to register by March 18th.



The Polk County Speech/Public Service Announcement Contest will be April 12th at 7 pm at the Midwest Covenant Home in Stromsburg. Please register by April 10th.



The 2016 State theme for the PSA is "4-H Grows Confidence". Each PSA must also contain the statement "Learn more about Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development at [4h.unl.edu](http://4h.unl.edu) as a tag line included in the 60 second time limit. Do not use the Know How, Know

The Regional Speech Contest is Thursday, May 20th at the Animal Science Building at UNL. 4-H'ers must be registered by May 1st. If your 4-H'er is not ready to participate, come and watch these events so that they will see, it is a fun and inviting environment.



Phone 402-747-2321

Email

[Polk-county@unl.edu](mailto:Polk-county@unl.edu)

Website

<http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/polk/>

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 am – Noon

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Amy Peterson, Extension Educator

[apeterson3@unl.edu](mailto:apeterson3@unl.edu)

Colleen Pallas, Extension Associate

[cpallas1@unl.edu](mailto:cpallas1@unl.edu)

Calling All Dogs!!



Consider telling your 4-H'er to becoming a member of the Mighty Mutts 4-H Club! This group meets weekly in the spring so the dogs can get there 4-H'er trained in time for the Polk County Fair!!

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Fire Up Your Sewing Machine!

It's time to get stitching!

The Spring/Summer Pattern Collection is in!! Price is still around \$1. Stop in the Extension Office and take a look at the newest patterns, make an order & start your fair exhibits!



Check out some fun ways of spending the lazy days of summer!!

Don't Miss Out On Scholarship Opportunities

The 4-H Foundation has scholarships available for High School students. Eligibility requirements vary by scholarship. To view information and requirements and to download applications, a link is available at: <http://ne4hfoundation.org>

Applications are due by March 2nd at the 4-H Foundation Office.



Reminder For High School Seniors In 4-H

Scholarship Applications were mailed out in November. If you have not received applications for the 4-H Council and the NACEB Scholarships, contact our office immediately! REMEMBER they must be submitted to the Polk County Extension Office by 4:30 on March 1st.

4-H GROWS HERE 2016 Photography Themes

The 2016 State Fair 4-H Photography Nebraska Theme Exhibit Print class is described below. Both Unit II and Unit III will include this class. Nebraska Exhibit Print: Help us celebrate the national "4-H Grows Here" campaign. Capture photos of people and places that illustrate 4-H growing and thriving in Nebraska!

Your photos should tell a story about how "4-H Grows Here" in your local community. Please print and include the 4-H Grows Here! logo in your photos. The logo can be accessed at

<https://unl.box.com/s/krptc9q2f2yxkxcpyc6q6flx6ni6z7mo>

Polk County Quilts of Valor!

4-H'ers and volunteers do a tremendous amount of service projects in their communities and beyond. We would like to encourage 4-H'ers to continue to "make a difference" by making Quilts of Valor that will be "awarded" to U.S. Military personnel or veterans who have been "touched by war". Through this quilt, you extend your care and thank you for their service. Quilts of Valor quilts can be entered in our county 4-H program entries and are eligible to compete at the Nebraska State Fair. Since the beginning of the statewide challenge, Nebraska 4-H'ers have created over 300 quilts and donated them through the National Quilts of Valor Foundation.

We are pleased to announce this upcoming workshop taught by former York County Extension Educator and QOV spokesperson Eileen Krumbach on March 28th, the day after Easter. Up to ten 4-H'ers may enroll in this class. Registrations must be made before March 14th so that adequate supplies are prepared. Please look for the registration flyer in this newsletter!

Market Beef Weigh, Tag, & DNA Sample Day

February 27th 2016 from 9-10:30 am at the Osceola Veterinary Clinic is the time for 4-Hers to have their Market Beef weighed, tagged, and DNA tested. If this does not work, please contact Colleen. The cost for ear tags is \$1 per tag and DNA sampling is \$6 per sample. You MUST have a DNA sample on file to be eligible for State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben.

All other tags for the Polk County Fair must be placed in the ear by June 15th. Please call Colleen for more information (402) 747-2321.

REGIONAL JUNIOR 4-H CAMP is June 1-3. This camp is for kids 4-H age 8-11 from Polk, Platte, Hamilton, Merrick, Boone, & Nance Counties. Registration is limited to 12 registrants so be looking for more information in the next newsletter.



Camp Counselors, 16 years of age and older, are needed for Jr. Camp, June 1-3. Application forms are available in the offices and are due by April 15th. Camp counselor training is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31st. If interested, please contact Colleen.

If you have never experienced a NE 4-H Summer Camp, this is your lucky year!! There are great opportunities for young individuals to learn about the world around them in fun and exciting ways. Check it out at <http://4h.unl.edu/4hcamps> !



BIG RED SUMMER ACADEMIC CAMPS are a great way for 4-H'ers grades 10-12 to explore different career opportunities. Check out all the options available to you on June 5-10!

<http://4h.unl.edu/4hcamps/bigredcamps>

From Culinary Arts and Fashion Design to Crop & Animal Science, these camps offer something for everybody. Also available are camps focused on Engineering, Veterinary Science, & Youth Legislature.

Livestock Quality Assurance Online Course

Quality Assurance has been developed to assist Nebraska 4-H youth with learning about major areas of proper animal care, including:

- daily care and management
• prevention
• handling
• carcass quality
• medication



Completion of 3 Quality Assurance Courses is mandatory for all exhibitors who are showing beef, sheep, swine, goats, dairy goats, poultry, & rabbits. There will be more information in the next newsletter. Instructions for doing QA will be sent out soon. There is a \$10 annual fee for each participant for Quality Assurance.

2016 Nebraska District Horse Shows

- JUNE 13th Kearney
JUNE 14th Chadron
JUNE 15th McCook
JUNE 16th Leigh
JUNE 17th Bloomfield
JUNE 21th Lincoln



4-H Companion Animal Challenge The second 4-H Companion Animal Challenge will be held on Saturday March 12th at the Animal Science Complex. Contests include: Dog Skill-a-thon, Dog Quiz bowl, Companion Animal Demonstration Contest, Companion Animal Art and Photography Contests.

This event allows youth to apply their companion animal knowledge but does not require them to have an animal!

Entries are due to me by Feb. 19th.

For more information and registration forms: <http://animalscience.unl.edu/ansc-4-h-companion-animal-challenge>

