



@fillmorecounty4h



www.remind.com/join/929dh3k
Class Code: 929dh3kBS
Class: Fillmore County 4-H

Fillmore County Extension
402-759-3712
fillmore.unl.edu

Brandy VanDeWalle
Extension Educator
brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu

Alexis Schmidt
4-H Assistant
alexis.schmidt@unl.edu

Carley Swartzendruber
Office Manager
cswartzendruber2@unl.edu

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

FEBRUARY

- FEB 2- 4-H After School K-2, Shickley, 2:30-3:30
- FEB 5 Robotics Club Meeting
- FEB 5 Livestock Judging Club Meeting 6:30-7:30
- FEB 7- 4-H After School 3-6, Geneva, 1:30-3:00
- FEB 7- Youth Leadership, 6th+, Geneva, 3:00-3:45
- FEB 9- 4-H After School ALL, Exeter, 2:00-3:00
- FEB 10- Special Horticulture Project Seed Sign-up Due
- FEB 12- Robotics Club Meeting
- FEB 12- Valentine's Day Cards- Extension Office
- FEB 16- 4-H After School 3-6, Shickley, 2:30-3:30
- FEB 21- 4-H After School K-2, Geneva, 4:00-5:00
- FEB 26 Robotics Club Meeting

CWF Strawberry Fundraiser

Several youth attending the 2025 CWF trip are currently selling strawberries! Orders must be into the extension office by February 9th and with potential delivery dates set from February 21st - March 10th. Prices are \$35 for one flat of strawberries (8 quarts), \$20 for 1/2 flat and \$12 for 1/4 flat of strawberries. Enjoy fresh or preserve strawberries by freezing them to use later in smoothies, etc. or can them into your favorite jams or jellies. Youth participating in the sales are McKenzie VanDeWalle, Selah & Titus Petersen, Sydney Engert, Jaeden Wilkins, Wyatt Hafer, Ransom Girums and Jaci Howell.



WELCOME CARLEY!!

We are excited to announce we have a new friendly face at the front desk! Carley Swartzendruber is the new Fillmore County Office Manager. Carley grew up in Shickley where she had the opportunity to be active in 4-H and FFA. She continues to be active in both organizations by raising show lambs with her family. She received her Associate of Applied Science in Agribusiness from Southeast Community College in Beatrice. She recently left the banking world and is ecstatic to be back in the agriculture world. She is looking forward to meeting everyone and is willing to help out in any way!



Nebraska 4-H Month February

Mark your calendars and make plans to celebrate!

4-H Spirit Day - Thursday February 1

Wear green, the 4-H emblem, or your favorite 4-H T-shirt!

Share your 4-H Spirit on social media using #NE4HMonth, #iBelong, and #Opportunity4All

4-H Volunteer Appreciation Day - Thursday, February 8

Send handwritten thank-you notes, treats, or goody bags to your club and project leaders.

Shout out your club and project leaders on social media using #NE4HMonth.

Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer for a Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Recognition Award.

4-H Sponsor & Donor Appreciation Day - Thursday, February 15

Ask your local Extension office for the contact information for a 4-H donor and sponsor. Send them a handwritten thank-you note.

Community Service/Give Back Day- Thursday February 22

We will make Valentine's Day cards on February 12 after school.

Leap into 4-H- Thursday February

Take this opportunity to get enrolled in 4-H for the year!

NEW Age Eligibility Change

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.



Photo entries will be weekly opportunities for 4-H members to showcase their photography skills based on different categories. Entries will be uploaded to the Nebraska 4-H Website link (4h.unl.edu/photography-showcase) by midnight on Sundays starting on February 11th. Watch the Nebraska 4-H Facebook and Instagram pages for the weekly theme categories. Winners will be announced later in the week with their photo on social media. There will be 4-H Swag prizes given to all category winners



4-H ENROLLMENT OPEN
V2.4HONLINE.COM

4-H Enrollment has opened for 2024. The process has been simplified for you as families! All youth involved in 4-H must be enrolled in order to participate. There is an enrollment fee of \$10.00 per youth, \$20.00 per family. (Scholarships available, upon request.)

You will use the same username (email) and password as before. Enroll in 2024 4-H year. Update youth personal information and be sure to complete the page of authorizations.

For help enrolling go to fillmore.unl.edu and under the Fillmore County 4-H tab click on 4-H Enrollment. It will guide you to the University's step by step picture guide.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

4-H Enrollment is open for volunteers as well. Go to v2.4honline.com to enroll. **NEW THIS YEAR!** Volunteers must complete a volunteer orientation

Youth Leadership Program

Have an interest in voicing your opinion on what workshops should be offered? Do you want to learn more about leadership and leadership within 4-H? Would you like the opportunity to lead workshops? Work alongside Extension staff to grow in your leadership skills and help pave the way for the 4-H program.

Who: Youth 6th grade and older

When: Wednesday February 7, 3:00-3:45

Where: Extension Office

Please confirm interest by February 5th by contacting Alexis at 402-759-3712 or alexis.schmidt@unl.edu.



4-H After School

Shickley:

2:30-3:30, Mrs. Schultz's classroom

K-2: February 2, March 15, April 12

3-6: February 16, March 22, April 26



Exeter:

2:00-3:00, Commons Area

February 9, March 8, April 19

Geneva:

K-2: 4:00-5:00, Extension Office

3-6: 1:30-3:00, Extension Office

K-2: February 21, March 27, April 24

3-6: February 7, March 13, April 3



Themes:

January- Winter

February- Sharing the love

March- Plant Science/Gardening

April- The Power of Water



Youth for the Quality Care of Animals



Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars: food safety, animal well-being, and character development. This training is required for all food producing animal or livestock project members. Food producing and livestock projects include beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry and rabbit. Members will go to www.yqca.org and log in using their 4HOnline login. Members must have an Active status with 4HOnline to be able to log in and complete the courses.

Face to face training that are available:

Animal Science Day March 24th @3:00 -Fillmore County Fairgrounds

YQCA Training April 1st @ 10:30-Clay County Fairgrounds

Last F2F YQCA June 7th @ 10:30-Fillmore County Extension Office

BEEF WEIGH-IN THANK YOU'S!

We are fortunate to have a vet clinic that not only allows us to use their facility, but lines up sponsors for vaccinations so that market beef at the county fair are healthy for the buyer. This does not happen at every weigh in and we are so thankful that our vet clinic sees it as a priority.

Library Dates:

Shickley: Feb 28, March 20, April 17

Exeter: Feb 13



Livestock Judging Club

Interested in learning more about livestock judging and meats judging? This program will meet once a month with hands-on learning opportunities. An informal introductory meeting will be held **February 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office** to learn more about the program!



Livestock Achievement Program

Through the Nebraska 4-H Livestock Achievement program, youth can receive recognition as Members of Excellence for engaging in various project-related activities. NEW in 2024: Members as young as eight will be able to participate. Applications are due June 15, but why wait? Visit 4h.unl.edu/livestock-achievement to get started.



Special Gardening Project

Members are given seeds and guided through planting, growing, and harvesting seasons. Members can exhibit a cut flower or youth can share their experience through a poster, story, or video exhibit. Next year, members will work with the PRINCESS INDIA NASTURTIUM. Visit 4h.unl.edu/spg to learn more.

Please sign up for seeds by February 10th [here](https://forms.office.com/r/vA5eVYTB2m).
<https://forms.office.com/r/vA5eVYTB2m>

Innovative Youth Corn Challenge

Exciting news! 🌈 We're thrilled to introduce the Corn Yield Challenge – a premier contest inviting participation from 4-H members (aged 8 and older as of January 1st) and FFA members (in-school members). 🚗🌱

Key Features:

- 👥 **Team Participation:** Form teams with two or more youth participants
- 🌱 **Innovative Practices:** Youth will take on the challenge of implementing unique production practices to assess their impact on increasing corn yield.
- 📊 **Data Collection:** The Corn Yield Challenge management summary will systematically gather crucial information, including yields, cropping history, and production details.

Recognition and Rewards: Outstanding achievements deserve recognition! 🏆 Cash prizes and plaques await the top three teams.
Special Awards: Going the extra mile deserves applause! 🌟 "Extra Mile" and "Ag Literacy" Awards will be presented, each carrying a value of \$200. For detailed guidelines and participation information, please visit [Corn Challenge Webpage](#) or contact Brandy VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu.

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 honor 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 County and/or State Fair in the agronomy project area.

Sign up by February 10th at <https://forms.office.com/r/vA5eVYTB2m>



Looking for a way to fit a break into your summer? At 4-H Summer Camps, youth disconnect from technology, develop social skills and friendships, learn new things, get active, and create lifelong memories in safe, structured, and supervised environments. Sessions are filling up! Register now at 4h.unl.edu/camps-summer.

Fillmore County Staff is also working with Jefferson, Gage, Thayer, and Saline for a local camping opportunity! Stay tuned!!





February



2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4-H Spirit Day	2 Shickley K-2 After School 2:30-3:30	3
4 Robotics Club Meeting 4:30-7:30 Livestock Judging Meeting 6:30-7:30	5 Robotics Club Meeting 4:30-7:30	6 Exeter Library LOL Club 3:30-4:30	7 Geneva 3-6 After School 1:45-3:00	8 4-H Volunteer Appreciation Day	9 EM All After School 2:00-3:00	10 Special Gardening/ Agronomy Registration Due
11 Robotics Club Meeting 4:30-7:30 Community Service After School	12 Robotics Club Meeting 4:30-7:30	13	14	15 4-H Sponsor Appreciation Day	16 Shickley 3-6 After School 2:30-3:30	17
18 Office Closed	19 Office Closed	20	21 Geneva K-2 After School 4:00-5:00	22	23	24
25 Robotics Club Meeting 4:30-7:30	26 Robotics Club Meeting 4:30-7:30	27	28 Shickley Library 4-H 3:30-4:45	29 Leap into 4-H		

TO FIND MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT FILLMORE.VUL.EDU OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 402-759-5712

Community Service Opportunity!

We will be putting our hands to larger service February 12th After School to make and create Valentine's Day Cards for Fillmore County Nursing Homes and Senior Centers. Stop by the Extension Office anytime after school till 5:00 p.m. to make cards.

