



Webster County

4-H News



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.....STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH

Duane A. Lienemann, Nebraska Extension Educator – Webster County

February 2016 Edition

With the big snow storm we are a little late in getting this out. I would assume that most of you are getting dug out and things are pretty much back to normal, or at least as normal as can be. Although it is a little behind schedule the information is still pertinent. There are some major changes in the livestock section so please read through and make note of those changes.

FAIR DATES: We announced some good news in the last newsletter. We are confirmed on a carnival for the 2016 Webster County Fair. This is good news because a carnival with the attractions, lights and smells help make the atmosphere. But as a result it means we had to change our fair date to an earlier time frame that what we are used to. Please mark July 9-16 on your calendar. There are several changes for this year's fair and we are excited that everything is coming together for what should be another outstanding Webster County Fair!!

YOUTH LIVESTOCK QUALITY ASSURANCE: I think everyone knows by now about the Youth Livestock Quality Assurance program that we need to complete each year. If you exhibit beef, dairy, sheep, goats, rabbits, or poultry you must have an YLQA card to show at county and state fair. You may remember from last year that the way we have done YLQA has changed. We now live in an "online" world and by offering this course "online" we are striving to make Quality Assurance something youth can learn about anywhere, anytime, any pace, and any place. You can find a document on our website at www.webster.unl.edu on how to "Moodle YLQA!" The on-line course has been divided into three levels, Junior (4-H Youth Ages 8-10), Intermediate (4-H Youth Ages 11-14), and Senior (4-H Youth Ages 15-18). Each year youth will be required to complete 3 modules within their age level. Youth are eligible to work ahead so that they will be done with the YLQA requirements until they reach the next age level. You can find the online YLQA @ <http://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=527>. Further instructions on how to do the on-line YLQA can be found on page two of this newsletter.

We encourage all of the exhibitors that are in FFA to work with their FFA advisors in getting their training done during the school year. If they take animal science classes in their curriculum, that will suffice for qualifying for credit. Please work with your advisors on making arrangements for completing the requirements for Youth Livestock Quality Assurance and then let our office know of your completions. All 4-H exhibitors should also consider working on these modules at school or working with your FFA advisors. You can also do this from home or if you wish come visit us at the Webster County UNL Extension Office and get on line during regular Courthouse hours. The cost for the online course is \$5. So be prepared for that if you go that route.

We will also have at least one YLQA session that I will teach for those that would rather go face-to-face! Those classes will be determined at a later date as to when and where. Stayed tuned for more information on the Youth Livestock Quality Assurance. Don't wait till the last minute to take care of your YLQA requirements. Best bet – get it done on-line! There is another option for those that are exhibiting beef. You can attend the Regional Nebraska BQA and the Veterinary Feed Directive Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Bladen, Fairgrounds - 4-H & FFA Exhibit Hall. Not only would you get your YLQA requirement fulfilled but also would have a BQA card.



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the non-discrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



MARKET BEEF EXHIBITORS

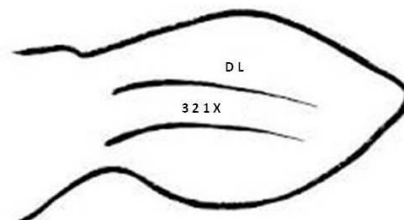
Our two weigh-ins have been completed, but I do know that there will likely be others that are added to your show string with the Classic coming up and some club calf sales still on the docket. If that is the case with you, please note that you can make arrangements with me to individually weigh in that calf. I have also received questions about second year **bucket calves. Yes, they need to be weighed in and an EID tag put in as well.** That is particularly true if it is destined for the market beef show and to be sold at the auction or put on the truck. When in doubt call me! All market beef must be on an affidavit and weighed in with EID before April 15, 2016.

What do I need if I am going on to Nebraska State Fair and/or Ak-Sar-Ben? 4-H exhibitors are reminded that if they intend on going on to State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben, they must have their beef DNA sampled. DNA is now also required for FFA beef that will be going on to the Nebraska State Fair. There is a \$6 per head charge for all DNA samples. This will also be done at the weigh-in site for those that so desire. When in doubt, or not sure of their intentions, we suggest that exhibitors make sure their beef are EID'ed with the NE 840 tag, and take a DNA sample on your market beef to be on the safe side. It is too late if you decide at County Fair that you want to go on to State. Exhibitors do have until April 15 to DNA any beef animal that may go to State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben. **Note:** You will also need DNA if you plan to go on to the American Royal in Kansas City. Speaking of the Nebraska State Fair. Please look below:

Nebraska State Fair 4-H and FFA Beef Shows will be no-fit. That's right, they are going to a Blow and Show for both the breeding and market beef shows as well as the showmanship events. Here is what the State 4-H Office has sent out:

“While we certainly respect the talent and passion many have for the fitting process, this decision was made based on feedback from staff and families as well as the success of the blow and go showmanship contest at the 2015 Nebraska State Fair. Families were largely in favor of the change, specifically, they cited:

- A reduction in the cost of supplies and products.
- The need for fewer blocking chutes needed and help expedite the unloading process.



Rate of Gain Requirements for Webster County Fair: Since the Nebraska State Fair already decided to do away with the 2.2 and 2.0 ROG requirement for placement of market beef, our Webster County Youth Council decided to discontinue Rate of Gain requirement for beef ribbon placement at our county fair. **However** we did decide to keep our ROG Contest as we have some exhibitors that use that as their main goal! That means we will continue to weigh in our calves as per usual. What is cool is that the Council decided to give a **Champion and Reserve Champion Production Market Beef award**. This would be competitive with four items counting towards the championship. Points would be awarded for 1) Rate of Gain 2) Carcass Scan Placing 3) Live Placing and 4) Require that the exhibitor turn in a record book. Those records could be the typical 4-H Market Beef Record Book that is available from our office or an app such as: 4-H Livestock Record App for iPad <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/4-h-livestock-record/id898568078?mt=8> or LiveStock Weights Expenses can be found at: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/livestockweights/id1061212347?mt=8> I might suggest that you go to <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.goyal.livestockweights&hl=en> for Androids and go to: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.farmtracktech.farmtrack.android&hl=en> for the Farm Animal Tracker for Android.

BREEDING HEIFERS

Breeding Heifer Tattoos: Regardless if you go to the Cattlemen's Classic or not, in preparation for county fair, state fair and Ak-Sar-Ben please note that **ALL breeding heifers** need to have tattoos in their ears. Only purebred or registered heifers required this before. **Now, all commercial breeding heifers also need to sport a tattoo.** This can be a herd number or a number that corresponds with the 4-H tag - it is up to you, but it must be tattooed. If you buy a heifer from a breeder make sure it has a tattoo – even if they say there is one there. If you raise your own it always good thing to tattoo, it is a good management and identification tool. Purebred or percentage breed heifers must also have a certified pedigree registration paper. The main thing if you plan to exhibit your breeding heifer at any progress show, county fair and/or Nebraska State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben be sure you have a legible tattoo that matches the registration paper and/or the breeding beef affidavit. **NOTE – NEW THIS YEAR.** Families will be required to submit a Breeding Nomination Card for all breeding animals showing at State Fair. **Breeding Nomination Cards will have a \$2 nomination fee.**



Home Bred and Raised Heifer Show at County Fair: There is a change this year on the affidavits for Home Bred and Raised heifers. ***Instead of March 15, they will be due before April 15, the same time as the other breeding heifer affidavits.*** Exhibitors must remember however that they will need to turn in two affidavits for the heifer. One for the regular breeding heifer class and a second one specifically for the Home Bred and Raised Breeding Heifer class. It may interest our breeding beef exhibitors that we will continue the way these exhibits were shown at the 2015 Webster County Fair. The special breeding beef jackpot class will once again be on the same day as the beef showmanship. It will directly follow the beef showmanship event. The class will be judged as a “blow and go” class. They will also be shown in their respective classes during the regular breeding beef show.

2016 Livestock Identification Process: I have attached the document that was sent out to all extension offices and FFA advisors describing the 2016 Livestock Identification procedures. We have just been informed that **there will be no cost on the EID’s this year, including the 840 tags from the State of Nebraska.** You may want to review it below:

2016 Livestock Identification Process for State Fair & Aksarben

1. There will be no online or paper ownership affidavit requirements for State Fair entries. Paper copies for county only on our website <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/webster/4h/> for 4-H.
2. 4-H and FFA with both use visible EID tags for all market beef, market swine, market lamb, meat goat and feeder calves showing at State Fair. These tags will have an EID button and visible portion that will have a number. An EID tag that already exists in an animal as a breeder tag, etc. is also acceptable.
3. Families will be required to submit a Breeding Nomination Card for all breeding animals showing at State Fair. Breeding Nomination Cards will have a \$2 nomination fee.
4. For breeding goats and breeding sheep, the scrapies tag identification number will serve as the official identification. For breeding beef, the tattoo will serve as the official identification. Bang tattoos are not an accepted form of identification. For breeding gilts, ear notches will serve as the accepted form of ID. Students may use EID for their breeding animals as well.
5. DNA and breeding card verification will be required for all livestock animals showing at State Fair.
6. County-only animals can use EID tags or regular tags.
7. There will be no mandatory weigh-in days or group tagging for State Fair or Aksarben.
8. For State Fair there will be a total limit of nominations by individuals including both 4-H and FFA entries to help level the playing field for those youth who are in both organizations. Entry Limits- Beef (10) Lambs (20) Swine (40) Goats (20).
9. Youth will have until August 8 (State Fair pre-entry deadline) to select whether they are showing their animal in 4-H or FFA. This could mean they show one organization at the county level and one organization at State Fair. They cannot switch between State Fair and AKSARBEN.
10. Because of the role Ak-Sar-Ben plays in the 4-H process, staff at Ak-Sar-Ben will also be handling the processing of livestock information for FFA.

Family Responsibilities

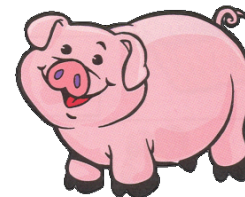
1. Exhibitors showing market beef must have a signed and sealed official envelope with hair samples for DNA verification turned in to their county office or FFA chapter by the April 15 nomination deadline.
2. Exhibitors showing feeder calves, market swine, market lambs and market goats must have a signed and sealed official envelope with hair samples for DNA verification turned in to their county office by the June 15 nomination deadline.
3. Exhibitors showing breeding beef, breeding sheep, breeding swine and breeding does at State Fair will be nominated with a breeding nomination card. The breeding nomination card will contain all information necessary for State Fair eligibility. Families will need to have completed breeding nomination cards turned in to their county office or FFA chapter by the June 15 nomination deadline.
4. Exhibitors will select which animal entries they have chosen to show at State Fair in a dropdown menu in ShoWorks. All nominated animals will be automatically listed as a choice option for pre-entry registration.
5. 4-H and FFA youth participants will declare which youth organization they will show their animal projects by August 8 in ShoWorks.

Cattlemen's Classic: The 25th Annual Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic is next week already - February 13-21, 2016. The event is held at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds in Kearney, Nebraska. **Attention 4-H and FFA Youth Exhibitors: All youth beef entries must be pre-entered before February 10.** Check-in and weighing for junior exhibits will be from 8:00 am until noon on Saturday February 20. The show is in two rings and starts on Sunday, February 21 at 8:00 am.

I plan to be in attendance on Saturday and Sunday, so give me a shout if you see me wandering around. Specific youth rules, regulations and information can be found on the web at: http://cattlemens.org/youth/junior_show.html Breeding heifers can also be shown at the Classic. They too are due by February 10 along with registration papers.

Webster County Pick-A-Pig Program: The 4-H and FFA "Pick-A-Pig" Program gives prospective swine exhibitors the potential of receiving up to three feeder pigs for market and two for breeding gilt classes. If interested in the program please call the Webster County Extension Office at 402-746-3417 and we will send you a form to fill out or if you prefer email to: ckumke2@unl.edu or dlienemann2@unl.edu . We will need to have any applications for this project in our hands no later than March 18. Basically here is how it works:

1. 4-H and/or FFA youth would request to be included in this Pick-A-Pig program.
2. If we get enough interest, 4-H and FFA leaders will find a swine producer that will have quality feeder pigs that will be market ready by the Webster County Fair.
3. We suggest that you put in for more than one feeder pig (3 suggested) as they are gregarious animals and need company. Individuals may also apply for breeding gilts, but they will not be allowed to go through the auction.
4. The Foundation would purchase the pigs and tag them with 4-H tags. Those pig's tag numbers would then be put into a lottery system and those pigs would be assigned to potential swine exhibitors by drawn numbers. The pigs may be gilts and/or barrows depending on the provider. The pigs will be delivered to the Webster County Fairgrounds or directly to the youth on a particular day (when the pigs are ready for feeding and training).
5. The youth would then take their new show-pig enterprise to a ready-made facility at their farm or other place to keep them. If more than one youth want to go together for facilities and care that would be encouraged and welcomed. Help and suggestions for feed and/or care will be made available if needed from volunteers, 4-H Leaders, FFA Advisors or the Extension office.
6. The youth and/or families would then be responsible for the care and feeding up through when they would compete at the County Fair, and are ultimately taken through the premium auction ring, or are marketed as fat hogs. They are responsible for all of the feed, care and facility costs during the time they have them.
7. The youth would then pay the Foundation back for ALL of the pigs that they committed to after the County Fair or State Fair - should they decide to go on. If they should elect to keep any gilts back for a potential breeding project for the following year it is permissible, but the exhibitor will need to still pay the purchase price. All premiums and premium auction proceeds would go to the exhibitor.



HORSE EXHIBITORS:

Youth Clinic Hosted by: Hastings Saddle Club: April 9, 2016 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Hastings. 90 minute Youth Clinic taught by Dr. Mike Guerini

- ☆ Improve your balance skills and independence of aids for success and improving your rein management
- Ground work for success-Practice your skills for halter, showmanship and to better understand how our horses move
- Riding for success and being soft and supple
- Dancing with Horses

Contact Lynetta Snelling at 402-756-7208 for questions or to sign up. Limit to 12 youth. NO COST!

4-H Horse Stampede: The 2016 4-H Horse Stampede has been scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2016 and entries due to our office by Friday, February 12, 2016. So, mark your calendars!! For more information on the 4-H Horse Stampede please go to <http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse-4-h-and-youth#tab4> to find a schedule, entry forms and contest rules. The following events are scheduled for 4-Hers interested in Equine projects: Public Speaking Contest & Demonstration Contest topics must be related to Nebraska 4-H Strategic Plan topics (include information related to at least one of the 5 Significant Outcomes: 4-H Strategic Plan Outcomes - - 4-H Science, Agricultural Literacy, Career Development/College Readiness, Citizenship and Leadership, and Healthy Living.

Public Speaking Contest

Demonstration Contest

Art Contest

Horse Bowl Contest (Junior and Senior Divisions)

NE 4-H Roping Clinic: Saturday, April 2 and Sunday April 3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the Lilienthal Indoor Arena, Grand Island, NE. Main Instructors: Justin & Garrett Nokes. For more information, contact Monte at 402-444-4092. \$60/Day without a horse, \$80/Day with a horse. Contact our office for a flyer with registration form.



2016 District Horse Shows: The District Horse Show sites have been set. This year they will be held at the following locations: June 13: Buffalo County Fairgrounds - Kearney, NE; June 14: Dawes County Fairgrounds – Chadron, NE; June 15: Kiplinger Arena at Red Willow County Fairgrounds - McCook, NE; June 16: Colfax County Fairgrounds - Leigh, NE; June 17: Knox County Fairgrounds, Bloomfield, NE; and June 21: Lancaster Event Center - Lincoln, NE. For entry forms and more information go on the web at: <http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse-4-h-and-youth> Please remember that all level testing required for participation in district horse show plus Horse ID sheets must be completed by May 13.

2016 State Horse Exposition: Bad news for our county horse exhibitors. The dates for the 2016 Fonner Park - State Horse Show this year falls smack on top of our County Fair. The dates for this year are **July 10 -14, 2016**. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event. <http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse-4-h-and-youth>

RABBIT EXHIBITORS:



2016 Rabbit Guidelines for State Fair: State Fair pre-entry deadline is August 10th. Rabbit exhibitors will have the option to enter up to 10 rabbit entries in to ShoWorks. Rabbit exhibitors will only be allowed to show 5 rabbits at the State Fair. Any rabbit that was pre-entered in to ShoWorks by August 10th will be eligible as a substitution. The family would incur a \$3 fee per rabbit. There will be no refunds for rabbit entries in to ShoWorks. Families are not required to pre-enter more than five rabbits but will not be able to make substitutions at check-in. There will be no identification of rabbits prior to the August 10th pre-entry deadline.


POULTRY EXHIBITORS:

2016 Poultry Update – Good News! On January 1, 2016, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture lifted the ban on poultry shows, fairs, and exhibitions that was put in place last spring to prevent the spread of the highly pathogenic H5N2 Avian Influenza that found its way into poultry and other livestock.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 4-H AND FFA MEMBERS

Each year our office receives information on several scholarships that are available to our county 4-H and FFA youth. We listed a bunch of scholarships last month. Many of those are due this month. Please go back to last month's newsletter for further information on those. Always remember that your best source of scholarships and scholarship information is your local high school guidance counselor. Please take advantage of these funds, it pays!

OTHER ITEMS FOR THE GOOD OF WEBSTER COUNTY 4-H & FFA

 **NEBRASKA 4-H MONTH** February has been declared as “Nebraska 4-H Month” and is held during the entire month of February. Celebrate Nebraska [#4H](#) Month in February with us by sharing your favorite 4-H photo on Facebook and tag it using [#NE4H](#) to share your 4-H enthusiasm with the rest of Nebraska!

But be sure to also tag your picture with [#webster4h](#) to win a beautiful belt buckle! Only Webster County 4-H or FFA members/alumni are eligible to win the buckle. We will enter your name in a drawing when you submit your photo. Happy tagging! Can't wait to see those photos!!!

Nebraska 4-H Dog Expo: The Nebraska 4-H Dog Expo will be held at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Hastings on **April 22 & 23, 2016**. The schedule will be similar to that of 2015 including competitions, demonstrations, education clinics, and fun. The competitions will include obedience, showmanship, rally, 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.

Companion Animal Challenge: The second 4-H Companion Animal Challenge will be held on March 12, 2016 at the Animal Science Complex on UNL's East Campus. It provides youth a chance to participate in a variety of contests that do not require animals, but allow youth to learn more about their dog or other companion animals. **Entries are due by Feb. 19.** The youth who participated in the event last year said that it was fun and they learned a lot. Youth do not need to be experts to participate in the event. More information available at: <http://go.unl.edu/4hcac> or please contact Lisa Karr-Lilienthal via email at lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu if you have questions. Contests include:

- Demonstrations (a presentation where youth demonstrate how to complete a task or related to the care of their companion animal)
- Photography and art contests (open to all companion animal projects)
- Dog Skill-a-thon - The contest will consist of a series of stations that are designed to test your knowledge of dogs. Stations will include identification of breeds and equipment as well as hands on demonstrations of youth's knowledge of handling and other dog related knowledge.
- Dog quiz bowl - The primary objective of Dog Quiz Bowl contest is to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H dog projects to demonstrate their knowledge of dog-related subject matter in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. These contests will provide an educational experience for both participants and spectators.

Governor's Agricultural Excellence Award: The Governor's Agricultural Excellence Award Applications are due the first of March. The Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards, sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA), recognize 4-H clubs for the work of the individuals in the club and the community service work of the entire club. 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.



Each county may submit up to 10 applications to the district office, we would love to have even just one applicant. Applications are available online on the 4-H website at: <http://www.ne4hfoundation.org/agexcellenceaward.htm> Clubs must e-mail their application with Governor's Ag Excellence Award applications to Lori Oberembt at the Nebraska 4-H Foundation Office by March 4th, 2016 at lori.oberembt@unl.edu Clubs will be notified by **May 16, 2016**. The Governor's Agriculture Excellence Awards are usually presented by the Governor and NIFA officials during the evening picnic of the PASE/Life Challenge Event.

Life Challenge and Premier Animal Science Events: The Life Challenge and PASE Contest dates are official, June 19th – 21st at UNL, East Campus. Please mark your calendars if you are interested in participating in either State 4-H Contest. We are starting to take entries for team members for both the Life Challenge and PASE. For further information on these contests you can go to: <http://4h.unl.edu/paselifechallenge>

We are looking for youth interested in forming teams and meeting to study and practice for PASE! Steve Landon our Youth Educator is willing to help us out. Let us know if you are interested!!

Upcoming Activities: I have attached a calendar of activities at the end of this newsletter that I have put together so far. Of course there will be a lot more as the Winter Programming begins. We will try to update this as things come in. If any of you know of progress shows or other events that would benefit our 4-H and FFA Families please let me know and I will add them. That is about all that I have for this month. Now let's see what Carol and Liz have for you!

Don't Forget to Enroll for 2016! We have put the enrollment instructions on our website at <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/webster/4h/> Be sure to use the correct instructions! There are instructions for re-enrolling (much quicker than the initial enrollment) and instructions for 1st time 4-Hers to enroll. There are also instructions for adult volunteers to enroll. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like us to help you through this process. Enrollments are due April 15, 2016.

Fair Superintendents and Assistants: By now you should have all received a letter asking if you would like to be a superintendent (adults) or assistant (must be at least 12 years old) at this year's fair. Let us know ASAP what you can help with. We don't want to get too close to fair and still need to be looking for help!

Sewing Workshop: The Basics (with a few tricks and secrets) Due to the snow storm we moved the sewing workshop to Sunday, February 21st at 2:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. This workshop will be taught by Eve Chingren and will cover the basic sewing techniques such as getting to know your sewing machine, basic tools that make your sewing project better, handwork tools, miscellaneous items and a time for questions and examples of your sewing problems. This workshop is for all ages of 4-Hers! Please pre-register with our office by Thursday, February 18th!



Speech & Presentation Contest: Through the 4-H Public Speaking & Presentation Contest, youth have an opportunity to write a Speech or a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that incorporates the topic of 4-H and deliver it to an audience.

The 4-H Public Speaking Contest helps youth develop skills for communicating about current issues to real audiences, learn how to organize and prepare a speech, develop speech delivery skills, learn how to present themselves to others, and develop self-confidence.

This year's Webster County Speech/Presentation Contest will be held on Sunday April 3rd at 3:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

As an extra incentive Green Cover Seeds of Bladen has graciously offered to sponsor added bonuses! They will award a \$100.00 savings bond to the Champion Senior Division winner, a \$50.00 savings bond to the Reserve Champion Senior Division winner, a \$50.00 savings bond to the Champion Intermediate and Junior Division winners and a \$25.00 savings bond to the Reserve Champion Intermediate and Junior Division winners! The deadline to register for this years' contest is March 18th!

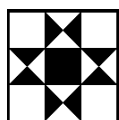


2016 Nebraska Theme Exhibit Print - The 2016 State Fair 4-H Photography Nebraska Theme Exhibit Print class is described below. Both Unit II and Unit III will include this class.

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>. You can print the logo and place with/on the subject you are capturing, so a person holding the sign, the sign on a building, etc. However, you can also use watermarking or digitally editing to add the logo. There is not a rule against that.

Culinary Challenge for 2016 - Challenge Ingredient/Item:

A challenge ingredient will be selected each year, highlighting a Nebraska commodity food product. **The 2016 challenge ingredient is squash**, including summer squash, winter squash, pumpkins, zucchini and other squash varieties. Each team must incorporate the challenge ingredient into their food item they will be presenting during the contest. This may require altering a recipe or creatively incorporating an item into their overall table theme. (For example: spaghetti squash, pumpkin muffins, butternut squash soup, etc.) The challenge ingredient must also be included in the interview presentation, demonstrating youth knowledge of the ingredient, such as nutritional value, a farm-to-fork concept, or how to adapt a recipe to include the ingredient. The Webster County Culinary Challenge contest will be held on **June 8th!**



Barn Quilt Workshop – Our office will once again be hosting a Barn Quilt Workshop on March 17th beginning at 5:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and finishing up on the 18th. The charge is \$30.00 for a 2x2 foot or \$37.50 for a 4x4 foot barn quilt. **Registration deadline is Monday, February 29th!**

New Division! – My Financial Future – This division is replacing Money Fun-Damentals and Money Moves. There is a beginner/intermediate division and an intermediate/advanced division. Entries are typed and attached to a piece of colored card stock or colored poster board. Class 1-Write 3 SMART financial goals for yourself, Class 2-Income Inventory, Class 3-Tracking Expenses, Class 4-Money Personality Profile, Class 5-What Does It Really Cost?, Class 6-MyWork; My Future, Class 7-Interview, Class 8-The Cost of Not Banking, Class 9-Evaluating Investment Alternatives, Class 10-Understanding Credit Scores, Class 11-You Be the Teacher. If you are interested in enrolling in this project let us know and we will get the manuals for you!

University of Nebraska Red Letter Days

Are you excited to make your college decision? Red Letter Days are an opportunity for you to explore college life at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln during your senior or junior year of high school. Each Red Letter costs \$10 per person. For more information visit <http://admissions.unl.edu/visit/on-campus/red-letter-days.aspx>

At this open house event, you'll get to:

- Explore campus with a current UNL student as your guide
- Attend academic informational sessions
- See what it's like to live in a residence hall
- Learn about ways to get involved on campus
- Find out important admissions, scholarship and financial aid information

The following dates have been scheduled:

- February 19, February 26, March 4, 2016

Fifth Annual Innovative Youth Corn Challenge - Nebraska Extension and the Nebraska Corn Board are offering the fifth Innovative Youth Corn Challenge contest. This contest, open to 4-H members (age 10 & older as of Jan. 1st) or FFA members (in-school members), guides participants through all aspects of corn production, as well as agricultural careers related to corn production. As a team, 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. 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. Sustainability, crop scouting and “extra mile” awards will also be given, each worth \$200. To participate in 2016, youth must complete and return an entry form by March 15th to the Fillmore County Extension Office in Geneva, NE. Forms can be downloaded at cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/activities. For more information, contact Brandy VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu, Aaron Nygren at anygren2@unl.edu or Amy Timmerman at atimmerman2@unl.edu.

Office Closed: The Courthouse will be closed February 15th for President’s Day. Our office will be closed on February 25th as we will be out of the office at other activities.

Happy Valentines Day!

Carol & Liz

Webster County Junior Leaders

The Webster County Junior Leaders would like to thank everyone who attended the soup dinner on January 17th! We had a large turnout and very much appreciate all the support!

We are now busy picking designs and will be painting a few barn quilts to put up around the fairgrounds. We are always looking for new members! Our next meeting date is Sunday, March 6th at the fairgrounds at 4:30 p.m.

2016 UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb. 11: Webster County Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 1:00-4:00 pm, Dick's Place Bar & Grill, Lawrence, NE
Feb. 11: Webster County Fair Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, Webster Co. Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE
Feb. 13: SC Cattlemen/Women Valentines Banquet, 5:00 pm, Lockland Country Club, Hastings, NE wattscattle68938@gmail.com
Feb. 13-21: NE Cattlemen's Classic, <http://cattlemens.org> Buffalo Co Fairgrounds, Kearney, NE rkbush@frontiernet.net
Feb. 15-16: Precision Ag Workshops, Fairgrounds, Clay Center, jrees2@unl.edu
Feb. 22: Webster County Youth Foundation Meeting, 7:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, Webster Co. Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE
Feb. 23: LB&LR NRD Producers Certification Meeting, 1:30-4:30, Elks Club, Superior, NE Contact mfaimon@littlebluenrd.org
Feb. 23-24: Central Plains Irrigation Conference, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Kearney, NE donnalamm@yahoo.com
Feb. 24: TC Ranch Angus Production Sale, Franklin, NE <http://www.tcranch.com/> TC Ranch - Dru Uden (308) 470-0740
Feb. 25: Youth Science Field Day, Adams Co. Fairgrounds, Hastings, NE slandon2@unl.edu
Feb. 25: Webster County Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 6:30-9:30 pm, Blue Hill Community Center, Blue Hill, NE
Feb. 25-26: Women in Ag Conference, Kearney, NE <http://wia.unl.edu>
Feb. 26: SC Cattlemen Beef Management Seminar, 10 am - 2 pm, Kearney Co. Fairgrounds, Minden, NE erin.laborie@unl.edu
Mar. 1: Prescribed Burn Training, Rowe Sanctuary, Elm Island Road, Gibbon, NE <http://nebraskapf.com/>
Mar. 1: Youth Science Field Day, Raising Nebraska Bldg, NE State Fair Park, Grand Island, NE slandon2@unl.edu
Mar. 2: Youth Science Field Day, Raising Nebraska Bldg, NE State Fair Park, Grand Island, NE slandon2@unl.edu
Mar. 2: Webster Co. Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Webster Co. Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, Bladen, NE
Mar. 2: South Central Nebraska Chemigation Certification, 1:30 pm Exhibit Hall, Webster County Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE
Mar. 2-3: Governor's Ag Conference, Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/gov_ag/
Mar. 3: Advanced Prescribed Burn Training, 9:00 am, Hastings Headstart, 123 N. Marian Road, Hastings, NE <http://nebraskapf.com/>
Mar. 4-5: Big Red Beef Show, State Fair Grounds, Fonner Park, Grand Island, NE www.showcattlepage.com/jnc/
Mar. 4: Farm & Ranch Business Succession & Estate Planning Workshop, 11 am – 2 pm, Community Center, Blue Hill, NE
Mar. 8: South Central Region Beef Quality Assurance Training, 7:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, Webster Co Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE
Mar. 8: Pesticide Resistance Management Meeting, Clay County Fairgrounds, Clay Center, NE jrees2@unl.edu
Mar. 9: Webster County Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 1:00-4:00 pm, Webster Co. Museum Exhibit Hall, Red Cloud, NE
Mar. 10: LB&LR NRD Producer Certification Meeting, 8:30-11:30, Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE Contact mfaimon@littlebluenrd.org
Mar. 10: Webster County Fair Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, Webster Co. Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE
Mar. 10: Webster County Fair Youth Council, 7:30 pm, Exhibit Hall, Webster Co. Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE
Mar. 12: 2016 4-H Horse Stampede, East Campus UNL Ani Sci Complex, Lincoln, NE
Mar. 12: 4-H Companion Animal Challenge, Animal Science Complex, UNL East Campus, Lincoln, NE lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu
Mar. 13: Daylight Savings Time – Turn your clock ahead one hour
Mar. 13: 4-M Angus & Burken Cattle Sale, 2:00 pm, 1459 Rd AA, Blue Hill, NE <http://4mangusfarm.com> www.burkencattle.com
Mar. 15-17: UNL Extension Eureka Conference, Innovation Campus, Lincoln, NE
Mar. 17-18: Webster County Barn Quilt Workshop, Exhibit Hall, Webster County Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE ckumke2@unl.edu
Mar. 18: Applications for Pick-A-Pig Project due to Webster County Extension Office
Mar. 19: Mid-Nebraska Spring Beef Show, Buffalo County Fairgrounds, Kearney, NE <http://www.showcattlepage.com/jnc/>
Mar. 29: Land Value and Rental Rates Clinic, 1:00 pm, Community Center, Blue Hill, NE dlienemann2@unl.edu
Apr. 1: Applications for Adopt-A-Lamb Project due to Webster County Extension Office
Apr. 3: Webster County Speech Contest, Exhibit Hall, Webster County Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE ckumke2@unl.edu
Apr. 6-8: Nebraska State FFA Convention, Pinnacle Bank Arena, Lincoln, NE
Apr. 14: Webster County Fair Board Meeting, 8:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, Webster Co. Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE
Apr. 15: 4-H Enrollment Deadline for Webster County
Apr. 15: Webster County Final Entry date for all 4-H and FFA Breeding Heifers and Market Beef
Apr. 21: Red Cloud FFA Banquet, 6:00 pm, Red Cloud Public Schools, Red Cloud, NE
Apr. 22-23: Canine Companions for Life 4-H Dog Expo, Adams County Fairgrounds, Hastings, NE
Apr. 30: West Central District Speech Contest, West Central Extension Center, North Platte, NE
May 3: Silver Lake FFA Banquet, 6:00 pm, Silver Lake High School, Roseland, NE
May 6: Blue Hill FFA Banquet, 6:00 pm, Blue Hill Community Schools, Blue Hill, NE
May 11: Stockmanship Clinic TBA
May 26: West Central Animal Science Day, UNSTA, Curtis, NE
June 1: South Central Nebraska Livestock Judging Contest, Webster County Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE ckumke2@unl.edu
June 4: South Central Nebraska Livestock Exposition, Webster County Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE dlienemann2@unl.edu
June 8: Webster County Culinary Challenge, Exhibit Hall, Webster County Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE ckumke2@unl.edu
June 9: Webster County Fair Board Meeting, 8:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, Webster Co. Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE
June 13-21: District 4-H Horse Shows, Various locations: <http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse-4-h-and-youth>
June 15: Webster County Final Entry Day for all Sheep, Goats and Swine and Static Entries
June 18-25: National Junior Maine and Chianina Show, NE State Fairgrounds, Fonner Park, Grand Island, NE
June 19: Rockin "G" Horse Show, Guide Rock, NE
June 19-21: Premier Animal Science Events, UNL East Campus Ani Sci Bldg, Lincoln, NE
June 29: Cornhusker Classic Sheep and Goat Show, Webster County Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE Lee Dana 402-984-0132