



Nebraska Extension in Gage County

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WELCOME TO 4-H 2017 - CELEBRATE THE GOOD LIFE IN 4-H



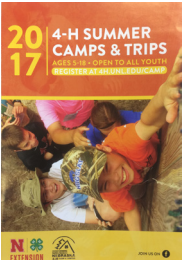
Celebrate the good life in 4-H, Gage County, and Nebraska. In 2017 we're excited to celebrate Nebraska 150, the August eclipse extravaganza, National Parks 100th anniversary, and so much in Nebraska that gives us all the good life. As we network with community, we provide youth with experiences, including 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!

First Lego League 4-H Club

So proud of our club and all the work they're doing, knowledge they've gained, teamwork they're building, and the fun they're having! Thanks to the Beatrice Public Library for using their meeting room and to Joanne Neemann for her leadership with the Junior team. New members are invited to attend with a parent. Contact the Extension Office for spring and summer events and activities.

NOTE: Junior FLL meeting dates for youth under age 9 will be announced for the spring. The Nebraska FLL Jr. Showcase is Saturday, March 4, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, UNL East Campus Union.



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.

Horse Project Meeting - February 2

Youth, parents and adult volunteers are invited to the annual horse planning meeting, Thursday, 7:30 pm, Extension meeting room. Discussion will include project materials, dates, county fair schedule, awards, etc. We need youth and adults from any family and club who is participating in the horse project; we want your input to keep our 4-H horse program growing.

2017 UNL Red Letter Days

High school seniors have the opportunity to visit the UNL campus - February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 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>

Feathers & Fur - February 12

Poultry, rabbits, breeds, care, feeding, showing... kids network with small animals in this special interest 4-H Club. Families are invited to join the club; 2017 organizational meeting is Sunday afternoon, February 12, Extension meeting room. Contact Jessie Parde, jessie4-H@outlook.com.

State Awards Judging - February 15

Congratulations to 13 4-H youth selected to advance to state awards competition; state winners receive a partially funded trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. Good luck to our 4-H members! Adult volunteers are needed for the judging; if you're interested, contact the Extension Office. It's a great learning experience as we complete the judging competition.

Rocketry Workshop - February 18, March 4



Thanks to the Harvey 4-H family for presenting a Rocketry Workshop, sharing their experience in building, painting, launching in April, and preparing the rocket fair exhibit. The kids are having a great time and you'll see all their rockets exhibited at the county fair.

Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic - February 18-26

Website for the Classic at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds in Kearney: www.necattlemen.com.

Omaha Fashion Week - February 21

A very exciting event is taking place during Omaha Fashion Week Spring Showcase. Student Night is February 21 featuring exclusively high school designers, including a 4-H collection of ten garments sewed and modeled by the 4-H member. Contact Megan Burda, 402-362-5508, for tickets.

Women in Agriculture Conference - February 23-24

"Women in Agriculture: The Heart of the Farm" is the theme for the 32nd annual conference at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, featuring keynote speakers, workshops, evening fun shops, and networking.

Website: <http://wia.unl.edu>

Come Ride With Me Clinic - March 4

UNL Extension invites youth to the first annual clinic featuring Casie Maxwell, former coach of the KSU Equestrian Team. The two-part clinic focuses on horsemanship, body work and pattern work. Bring your horse. \$50 fee per session or \$90 for all day.

Paws-On Dog Workshop - March 18

Do you want to learn more about dog care and improve your training and showing skills? UNL is holding a statewide workshop on Saturday, March 18, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Greater Lincoln Obedience Club, Lincoln. Fee: \$15.00 includes lunch. Register by March 3; website: 4h.unl.edu/companion-animal



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

We're pleased to host our State 4-H Public Speaking Champion, Jetta Harvey, presenting a 4-H public speaking workshop, Sunday, 3:00 pm, Extension meeting room. Jetta will help youth of all ages as she shares her skills to prepare and present a speech and PSA. Don't miss this as you prepare for the County Contest, April 20. Pre-registration information next month.

4-H Horse Stampede & Companion Animal Challenge - April 1

UNL features this combined event for youth, ages 10-18, with opportunities for demonstrations, quiz bowls, skillathons, art, photography and speech contests. Event is held at UNL Animal Science Building, East Campus, with registration beginning at 7:30. Pre-registration due March 10; would love to feature Gage County 4-H members in these competitions.

Burt County Beef Preview - April 1

You're invited to the beef show on Saturday, Burt County fairgrounds in Oakland. Classes for market heifers and steers and breeding heifers. Pre-registration fee by March 27 is \$30/head. Entry forms available at the Extension Office.

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. 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'll 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.

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. Mark the date; flyer and registration info coming in spring.

Horse Project Information



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 youth. Agricultural learning, speakers, tours, and so much more planned for participants. Website: www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi

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

We're excited for the fair, only 6 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!

THEME EXHIBITS ENCLOSED. Fairbook will be printed early April.

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 Lodi, State 4-H: klodi1@unl.edu.

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 (tentative date). Please contact the Extension Office now if you are interested in participating in this trip. Approximate cost \$1700.00.

All youth interested in 4-H citizenship trips (no matter what year) are invited to join in fundraising which helps finance your trip. When you register for an account at the Extension Office, you will be on the mailing list for fundraising activities. Next fundraising events will be this spring.



2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 2	4-H Horse Project Planning Meeting, Extension Office
Feb. 4-5	Annual Optimist Gun Show, 4-H Building, fairgrounds
Feb. 12	Feathers & Fur 4-H Club meeting, Extension Office
Feb. 15	State 4-H Awards Judging, UNL East Campus
March 4	Nebraska FLL Jr. Showcase, UNL East Campus Union
March 15	4-H Scholarships Application Deadline
March 26	4-H Public Speaking Workshop, Extension Office
April 1	Horse Stampede & Companion Animal Challenge, UNL East Campus
April 4	UNL Next Chapter (8 th Grade) District Celebration, Beatrice
April 15	Market Beef ID/DNA due (State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben)
April 20	County 4-H Speech Contest, Extension Office
April 25	UNL Next Chapter (8 th Grade) State Celebration, UNL
May 1	Online 4-H & 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 10-14	NAYI, Lincoln
July 16-20	State 4-H Horse Exposition, Grand Island
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. 28-Oct. 1	Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show, Omaha

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION - CELEBRATE THE GOOD LIFE IN 4-H

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 your 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!

Time to Start a 4-H Club

4-H offers a wide variety of opportunities for youth to discover your world, your community and yourself. You make your own choices and set your own goals. Gage County 4-H is open to youth, second grade - age 18, with over 150 projects offered. In 4-H, youth gain practical skills and develop life skills. Minimum club size is 5 members, with all clubs lead by volunteer adults. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings. If your club is getting too big or you have a group of friends and you would like to organize a new club, contact the Extension Office. Starting a 4-H club now gives time to organize and work on projects. Celebrate the good life in 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 salesmen for 4-H!

Homestead 4-H Shooting Sports Club



Looking for a new life skill, fun, getting to know others in the community, and improving yourself? Enrollment is open for new members into the Homestead 4-H Shooting Sports Club. New members must be between the ages of 9 & 18 years of age. We offer instruction in BB Gun, Air Rifle, Air Pistol, .22 rifle, Muzzle loader, and Shotgun. Club Instructors are State 4-H Certified & NRA trained. BB gun classes are held on Monday nights & Air Rifle, Air Pistol classes are held on Sunday nights at the 4-H Building, Gage County Fairgrounds. Shotgun, Muzzleloader, & .22 is seasonal throughout the year. Equipment is provided in BB guns and air rifles. Club dues are \$ 20.00 per year. Call Mike Jochum (402-984-1988).

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 Due May 1

All volunteers must register online: 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.

2017 Gage County 4-H Policies

1) ONLINE enrollment is due May 1. No premium money will be paid on exhibits of 4-H members enrolling after May 1.

2) 4-H member dues are \$10.00 per year - payable in cash or check to the 4-H club leader or the Extension Office (not online). Volunteer leaders or club members must turn in dues by May 1 with the dues delinquent May 15. Members not submitting dues by May 15 will not receive premium money for county fair exhibits. However, members will not be denied 4-H exhibit premiums because of economic hardship. It is the responsibility of the member or a parent/guardian to contact their club leader of the 4-H Council in such a situation prior to that deadline.

3) Horse I.D. sheets are due June 1. Livestock I.D. sheets are due June 15. I.D. sheets will only be accepted after the deadline in case of a hardship (death, injury, etc. of a project animal) with prior written approval of a 4-H club leader and veterinarian, pending review of the 4-H Council. We will strictly adhere to the deadlines in fairness to all 4-H and FFA youth and families.

4-H - Online & Facebook

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://extension.unl.edu/statewide/gage/>
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.

THANKS for Your Service

Keep Beatrice Beautiful recently recognized these 4-H clubs for their Roadside Right-of-Way 2016 Clean up: Riverview Jr. Stockmen, Odell Cookies, Pathfinders, 3 G's, and Feathers & Fur. Thanks for your combined efforts to clean up 22 miles!! Great job!



Online Livestock Quality Assurance - CHANGES COMING MARCH 1

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. Website: <http://campus.extension.org/>. Fee: \$5.00 payable online. First time registrants need to create a username and password; be sure to record this. YOU MUST PRINT your certificate with each completed course and bring, send, fax or email to our Extension Office and we will verify your certification for 2017. We encourage youth to complete your QA by the end of February.

CHANGES ARE COMING MARCH 1. Nebraska 4-H moves to a National QA program - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA); the cost will increase to \$12.00/youth. Supposedly the program will be improved and easier to navigate.

2017 Livestock Identification

Gage County 4-H will NOT host a market beef weigh day this year. Families who want to record a weight at this time will need to make your own arrangements.

ID deadlines remain the same - June 1 - horse; June 15 - beef, sheep, swine, goats, dairy, bucket calves. County only animals must be recorded on the paper identification sheet (ownership affidavit) available at the Extension Office or online.

State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben - 4-H and FFA market beef, sheep, swine and goats must be identified with an EID tag (electronic identification device) and DNA (\$6.00/animal). No paperwork required. Note the Market Beef deadline: April 15.

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.

Information sheet, EID tags, other tags, DNA envelopes and forms will be ready for you by February 10.

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.

Governor's Ag Excellence Award Apps due March 3

As you're planning your 4-H year, why not apply for grant dollars to support 4-H community service or improvement, trips/tours, etc. Awards are sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) in cooperation with the Nebraska 4-H Foundation. Twenty-five clubs are awarded a \$500 grant annually. Website: <http://ne4hfoundation.org/recognition>.

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, canceled 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.

Hoard's Dairyman Cow Judging Contest

4-H members and parents are invited to enter the dairy judging contest. Entry deadline March 23.

Wanted: You Ideas and Input

■ We need your input for 2017 educational project workshops, short-term projects, county fair exhibits, etc. Give us a call or email: jesau2@unl.edu. Let us know ideas you've seen at other fairs. We want to keep 4-H green and growing.

■ We are coordinating the yearly 4-H calendar. If your club is hosting shows, workshops, county events, etc., please let us know.

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.
- Nebraska 4-H - Loewenstine, Donna Wampler, Orscheln, Grand Island Saddle Club, R.B. Warren scholarships: due March 1.
- 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).



Clover Kids in Gage County - Future 4-H Members

An exciting pre-4-H adventure awaits kids younger than second grade! Clover Kids offers fun and learning with friends and family. Many kindergarten and first grade kids tag along to 4-H meetings and activities. We offer Clover Kids, a fun, non-competitive, educational experience, lead by 4-H moms and dads and adult volunteers. Stop by to check the resources we have at the Extension Office. We offer some basic curriculum and the excitement of fair exhibits. No enrollment. No fee. Adult volunteers must submit the HHS Screening Form and then work with the youth in simple, fun activities. We featured a special section at the fair with non-competitive exhibits, along with modeling at the 4-H Fashion Show, and non-competitive showmanship for companion animals and livestock to complete the pre-4-H experience. Everyone wins ribbons! You know what 4-H does for youth, now see what it can do for future 4-H members!

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!

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.

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.

4-H Club File - Extension Website

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.

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 existed 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.

4-H Resolution for Parents

One of our on-going goals is to increase parental involvement in your child's 4-H events and activities. Sharing the load makes happier, healthier 4-H volunteer leaders and parents. How can parents help?

- * Hold 4-H meetings in your home or help host at another location.
 - * Attend club meetings with your child.
- * Be aware of your 4-H member's projects, goals, and requirements. Help them designate these. Encourage them to finish what is started.
 - * Give your 4-H member help as needed, but DON'T do their work. Just work together.
 - * Encourage and praise your child. Give support through disappointment and success.
 - * Share your talents, skills and interests with all club members.
 - * Serve refreshments.
 - * Set up tours or workshops.
- * Give assistance at the end of the year for your child to complete the Career Portfolio record form.
 - * Say THANK YOU to club volunteer leaders.

NOTES TO 4-H VOLUNTEERS - CELEBRATE THE GOOD LIFE in 4-H

1) Welcome to 4-H 2017! Celebrate the good life! Thanks to youth and adult volunteers for your work with 4-H! Volunteers are good people doing good things for kids! You're making the best better 365 days a year! Thanks for making 4-H a priority.

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). 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 mid-February 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) 2017 Anytime Learning offers the workshops and learning activities you want to learn about. We are scheduling spring and summer workshops and would like to hear your ideas and/or if teen youth and adults who have a skill you would like to teach. Anytime Learning will be printed in the March newsletter. Call 402-223-1384 to register - first come/first served.

17) 2017 4-H community service project - We network with BSDC; bring your cards , envelopes, and canceled stamps to the Extension Office. BSDC recycles all of these items. What a great way to re-use all those cards we receive and go green. BSDC 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>.

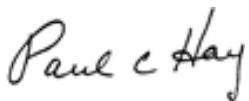
19) Nebraska Diamond Clover Program is a six-level, non-competitive recognition for youth. Forms due October 1 each year with certificates and pins awarded at the Achievement program. This is a great club goal that each year all members achieve their level awards. Have a teen or adult volunteer carry 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.

21) Success is about achievements; significance is about impact. Let's move beyond success to significance - having a meaningful, positive impact on the lives of others.

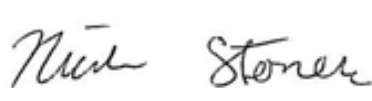
QUOTE OF NOTE: "Victory isn't defined by wins or losses. It is defined by effort. If you can truthfully say, 'I did the best I could, I gave everything I had,' then you're a winner." - Wolfgang Schadler

Paul C Hay



Extension Educator

Nicole Stoner



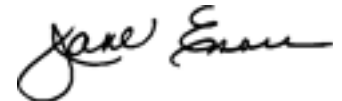
Extension Educator

Kayla Colgrove



Extension Educator

Jane Esau



Gage County 4-H



Gage County 4-H Council
1115 West Scott Street
Beatrice NE 68310

Return Service Requested

-----News Inside-----
- Now's the time to complete
Livestock Quality Assurance
- Enroll in 2017 4-H - Theme Exhibits!

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