



## Nebraska Extension in Gage County

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### November - December 2017

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## CELEBRATE THE GOOD LIFE IN 4-H

### National 4-H Congress - November 24-28



Congratulations to our Gage County 4-H members winning record book competition to represent Nebraska at National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, Georgia: **Jetta Harvey, Nathan Lancaster, Josiah Harvey**, Beatrice. For their 4-H excellence, they are awarded checks from the Gage County 4-H Council and Gage County Ag Society.

The Nebraska 4-H Foundation sponsors a major portion of Congress fees for the entire Nebraska delegation. They will join 1000 delegates from the United States and its territories at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta. This event not only recognizes excellence but provides an outstanding educational opportunity. Atlanta rolls out the red carpet with southern hospitality for the delegates. Schedules include workshops, discussion groups, entertainment, and a service learning experience. Participants will hear Miss America, Dan Thurmon, Dan Clark, and more. Sightseeing includes the Carter Presidential Library, Centennial Olympic Park, the World of Coca-Cola, the Atlanta Zoo, CNN Center, the Georgia Aquarium, and the Atlanta History Center.

The trip is the result of 4-H county and state awards judging with youth placing at the top of their curriculum area in state judging. They continue the proud tradition of over 90 Gage County 4-H youths being awarded a trip to National 4-H Congress since 1963. During only two years since 1985 was Gage County not represented at this national event.

Congratulations to our outstanding youth and parents for their excellence in 4-H work, leadership and community service!

### 2018 4-H Citizenship Washington Trip

Next trip for Gage, Jefferson and Saline County 4-H members is June 2-12, 2018. Nine Gage County youth are excited to participate in this awesome educational travel experience.

All youth interested in 4-H citizenship trips (no matter what year) are invited to join in fundraising which helps you finance your trip. Fundraising information was mailed to youth in October.

[Pinecrest Greenery](#), [Pinecrest Tree Farm](#), [Blue Springs](#) - Orders due November 17. Pick up November 27 - December 1, Extension Office.





## **Fantasy of Trees - November - December**

“Celebrate the Good Life in 4-H” is the theme for the 4-H tree at the Fantasy of Trees, sponsored by the Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce & Gage County Tourism. Stop by the Carnegie Building, 218 N. 5th Street, and enjoy the holiday spirit!

## **First Lego League & Jr. FLL**

Excitements builds for the FLL youth and volunteers as they work toward competition in January. We network with Beatrice Public Library, meeting Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at the Library. Our team is entered for the qualifying competition January 6 in Nebraska City. The project theme is Hydro Dynamics. The team’s project and presentation will focus on how humans find, transport, use, or dispose of water, identify a problem in that model and create a solution. Good luck! Thanks to volunteer coaches and parents and preparing the team for competition!

Jr. FLL (youth younger than age 9) also meets Tuesday evening at the Library. They’re showcase event is March 3 in Lincoln with a theme of Aqua Adventure. They will explore a method of water use, how it journeys to and from that purpose, and how to improve that journey. They will enter competition in January. Good Luck! Have fun!

## **Community Pantry Drive - November 11**



Be a part of the solution in our community helping those in need. Items in need include spaghetti & sauce, mac & cheese, noodles, peanut butter, jelly, vegetable oil, tuna, crackers, jello/pudding, pancake mix, syrup, rice, dish or laundry detergent, shampoo. Shortage items are canned fruit, apple sauce, cereal, paper towels & toilet paper. Leave your canned goods and paper products donations in a bag outside your door by 10:00 am on Saturday. If you live outside Beatrice, bring your donation to St. John Church basement, 701 N. 6th Street. The annual drive sponsored by Community Food Pantry & Emergency Services.

## **Ag Society Annual Meeting - November 16**

As members of the Gage County Ag Society, you are invited to the Annual Meeting, 8:00 pm, Extension meeting room. They will review the past year and look ahead to 2018; voting takes place for election of board members.

## **Holiday Lighted Parade - December 2**

Join in holiday festivities in Beatrice with your family and 4-H club, “Sixteen Decades of Christmas in Beatrice”. The holiday lighted parade is Saturday, December 2, 5:30 pm, down south 5th Street to the Chamber Office. Just a couple blocks for some winter fun with a float for the parade plus a visit from Santa and other fun events. Anyone interested in a 4-H entry? Entry deadline Nov. 27. Parade sponsored by Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce & Gage County Tourism.



## **State Record Book Judging - February 15**

The opportunity to award 4-H members for their excellence is awesome through the record book process. Volunteers are needed for state Career Portfolio judging, February 15, UNL East Campus. Our district will review the Animal Science curriculum area. If you’re interested in helping (and learning more about the awards process), let Jane know.

State award applications will be due to the Extension Office January 10 and then submitted to Lincoln for state judging.

## **2018 Gage County Fair & Expo - July 25-29**

Excitement is in the air for the 2018 Gage County Fair & Expo. We’re looking for theme ideas, as well as events and activities. Give us a call or email by November 15.

## 2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 13	4-H Council Meeting
Nov. 18	FAMACHA Meeting for Sheep & Goat producers, Extension meeting room, Beatrice
Nov. 24-28	National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, GA
<b>2018</b>	
Jan. 10	State award applications due Extension Office, Beatrice
Feb. 15	State 4-H Awards Judging, Lincoln
May 1	Online 4-H Member & Volunteer Enrollment Deadline
June 2-12	Citizenship Washington Trip
June 19-20	Camp Renegade, Fairbury
July 25-29	Gage County Fair & Expo
Aug. 24-Sept. 3	Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island
Sept. 27-30	Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Show, Grand Island

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Christina Lyons Wins Nebraska Outstanding Lifetime 4-H Volunteer

We are proud to announce that Christina Lyons was selected the 2017 Nebraska Volunteer Recognition Award - Outstanding Lifetime 4-H Volunteer (10 years or longer). Christina grew up in 4-H in Jefferson County. She is a 13 year 4-H volunteer here and member of the 4-H Council. Her volunteer hours at the Gage County Fair annually give service to Extension staff, as well as 4-H families. She is an instructor in the Beatrice Middle School after-school program, as well as the Beatrice Public Schools elementary summer school program, utilizing 4-H curriculum. Christina was awarded the 2016 4-H Alumni Award. She is coordinator of Gage County MAPS, TeamMates, and Diversion program for youth and adults. Christina is a volunteer of character, tirelessly giving her time, talents and energy, making a difference to 4-H families, as well as the entire community. Christina's nomination has been forwarded for competition in the North Central Region. Thank you, Christina! Congratulations!

### 2018 Gage County 4-H Council

The 4-H Council is an awesome group of 6 adults and 6 youth representing 4-H across the county. Their roles include networking with the community, brainstorming new programs and events, advising Extension 4-H personnel, and working to grow a fabulous 4-H program here. We are proud to announce Council members for 2018:

Outgoing members: Katie Steffen, Beatrice, Rhonda Dorn, Filley, Melina Kostal, Odell, Kyle Otto, Adams, Erica Dorn, Wymore. Thank you for your service!

New members: Emily Rempel, Beatrice, Ashtyn Humphreys, Jana Mullins, Wymore, Kaitlyn Otto, Adams, Karla Holland, Filley. Welcome!

Members: Andrea Humphreys, Lauren Trauernicht, Wymore, Christina Lyons, Lisa Oltmans, Beatrice, Heidi Price, Pickrell, Cara White, Savannah Gerlach, DeWitt, Karen Stohs, Odell



## Winners are Something to Crow About

Congratulations to all 4-H members who submitted your annual Career Portfolio, your Diamond Clover application, and/or applied for awards. It is exciting to see families working together in successful project work, leadership, and community service. We are excited to award youth for your excellence at the 2017 Achievement celebration. Congratulations to these and all winners:



- Business Recognition Award - E Energy Adams
- Friend of 4-H - Bryan Cook, News Channel Nebraska Sports Director
- 4-H Alumni Award - Scott & Denielle Trauernicht, Wymore
- National 4-H Congress - Jetta Harvey, Josiah Harvey, Nathan Lancaster
- Kids of Character - Margee Jane Harvey, Autumn Bartlett
- Exmark Excellence in 4-H - Savannah Gerlach, Evan Oltmans, Korey Theye, Jetta Harvey, Josiah Harvey, Lauren Trauernicht
- Diamond Clover Level 6 - Jetta Harvey

## Why Science Matters to Me Photo Contest - Entries due November 26

You can win a trip for three to National Youth Summit on Agri-Science, January 12-15, 2018, Washington, D.C. Submit a photo showing how life science is behind the food you eat, benefits your health or helps your animals, and write a caption telling why science matters to you. Website: <https://4hsciencematters.org>.

## Family Preparedness Kit - Nebraska Emergency Management

All families need to be prepared throughout the year, knowing the steps to take and having supplies for an emergency. We have an excellent guide “Family Disaster Preparedness Kit” available at the Extension office. 4-H curriculum and fair exhibits are also available in this area.

## Online Horse Advancement Level 1 & 2

4-H horse families and volunteers should note that Advancement Level 1 & 2 study courses are now available online: <https://4h.unl.edu/horse/advancement>.

## Rocketry Group Discount - Deadline: January 15

Attention: 4-H families with rocket projects! Rockets and accessories will be ordered for a 25% group discount (plus shipping) from Rocket Age Enterprises (with \$150 order). Estes bulk packs (12 of the same rocket) or individual rockets and supplies are available. No catalog this year; go to the website: [www.estesrockets.com](http://www.estesrockets.com). Write down your order and submit to the Extension Office by January 15. Money will be collected when merchandise arrives.

## 4-H Grows Here - 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 is a great time to get organized and begin project work.

## 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://gage.unl.edu>. State 4-H website: <http://4h.unl.edu>.

We have a Facebook page for UNL Extension in Gage County. “Like” this page to get news, updates, learn about helpful resources, stay up to date on programs, see who’s making the news, share ideas and join in on discussions. It’s a great way to connect with other 4-H members, volunteers, and our staff. Just type “Nebraska Extension in Gage County” in the search box on Facebook or go to: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/UNL-Extension-in-Gage-County/302472663098542>.

## Romeo Scholarship Deadline December 1

Martha and Don Romeo Scholarship for high school seniors, \$500 scholarship to a graduating male and female in Nebraska. Website: [gage.unl.edu](http://gage.unl.edu) or call for the application.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:araymond2@unl.edu)

## Clover Kids



Fun and learning!! 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. We offer some basic curriculum and the excitement of fair exhibits. No enrollment. Adult volunteers must submit the HHS Screening Form and then work with the youth in simple, fun activities. We feature 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!

## 2017 - 2018 4-H Community Service Projects

– Recycle greeting cards, cancelled stamps and envelopes as we network with BSDC; this project supports St. Jude's Ranch and does projects with these recycled cards.

– Tab Drive - On to 8 Million - We collected 112 pounds of tabs and donated \$50.40 to our local Ronald McDonald House in Omaha. This brings our county total to 7,151,000. Ronald McDonald House is an outreach to families who need housing in Omaha while their children are receiving medical care. Keep pullin' and bring your tabs to the Extension Office.

– Dresses for Africa is an awesome sewing and service project, making a difference to girls in Africa. Thanks to everyone for sewing dresses; we have 45 to send - and we want to send MORE!! Dresses will be shipped mid-November. Contact the Extension Office for the pattern. We're excited to continue the project in 2018.

## Nebraska 4-H - FFA License Plate



Take your support for 4-H and FFA with you wherever you go with the new license plates that showcase your pride in 4-H and FFA. Order yours today by filling out the online application: <http://ne4hfoundation.org>

## 4-H Club Exemption

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, a 4-H club must have an Employer Identification Number (EIN) for their bank account and have a Constitution/Bylaws with specific language required by IRS. Interested clubs should contact the Extension office; we have the forms on our Extension website: [gage.unl.edu](http://gage.unl.edu) - go to 4-H Club File - EIN and Constitution & Bylaws.

## 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. Application website: [fcsamerica.com/workingherefund](http://fcsamerica.com/workingherefund)

## University of Nebraska Foundation

Gage County 4-H Council Foundation funds are invested in a University of Nebraska Foundation account. The funds yield a guaranteed 4.0% with a built in growth factor. Since this fund has been in existence for a number of years the income is closer to 6% when considering the investment amount. The current Book Value of donations is \$31,391.30. Last year Gage County 4-H Council received \$1821.03 which represents a 5.8% return on invested amount. We have been blessed with significant donations from Bowhay, Rumpeltes, Carl Wylie and others, plus retirement donations for Larry Germer, Eleanor Rector, Sandee Bellows and Paul Hay. 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.

## Youth Protection 4-H Volunteer Screening

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services established the Youth Protection 4-H Screening Form. 4-H leaders and volunteers working with children are required to complete the screening form and then covered by \$1 million of liability through the University of Nebraska. Adults working with 4-H youth and/or Clover Kids must submit form to the Extension Office or directly to HHS. State 4-H introduced a new form. Print directly and bring to the Extension Office for our signature.

Website: <http://4h.unl.edu/employeeeresourcesyouthprotection>.

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

- 1) CONGRATS to all youth, volunteers and clubs who received awards at the annual Achievement celebration on November 5. Proud of all of you! 4-H Clover Kids, members, families, volunteers and community supporters are Someone to Crow About!
- 2) Gage County Extension website: <http://gage.unl.edu>
- 3) Gage County Extension & 4-H Facebook: Nebraska Extension in Gage County
- 4) State 4-H website: <http://4h.unl.edu>
- 5) The holiday season is an excellent time for community service projects, supporting the Caring and Citizenship pillars. Record your activities in your Club Community Service Record.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 4-H Career Portfolio is the accumulative summary of each member's yearly projects, leadership and citizenship. Each 4-H member will record your information in the Career Portfolio. Youth fill it out by computer or hand written. Forms due October 1 each year. Websites: [www.gage.unl.edu](http://www.gage.unl.edu) or <http://4h.unl.edu>.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 4-H volunteers (Clubs and Clover Kids) must complete your registration with the 4-H Online system (same as the 4-H members website) and all volunteers must complete the Youth Protection 4-H Screening process (no cost). Deadline: May 1. Website: <https://ne.4honline.com>. Volunteers 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>.
- 11) We network with BSDC; bring your cards, envelopes, & stamps to the Extension Office. Reuse-Recycle!
- 12) Thanks to everyone who contributes tabs; we're on to 8 million! Ronald McDonald House is an outreach to families who need housing in Omaha while their children are receiving medical care.

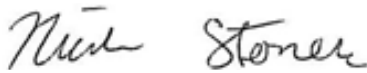
13) Dresses for Africa is an awesome sewing and service project, making a difference to girls in Africa. Thanks to everyone for sewing dresses. They will be shipped mid-November. Contact the Extension Office for the pattern. We're excited to continue the project in 2018.

14) THANKS for your time, talents, and energy given toward your club and the county program. Many activities are carried out because of volunteers giving of your time. We're making plans for 2018. Let us know your ideas for workshops and programs, etc. We're looking for workshop presenters. Got theme ideas for the 2018 Gage County Fair & Expo?

15) Have a safe, happy fall season and a warm winter season! Happy Holidays!

**Quote of Note: "Since most of us spend our lives doing ordinary tasks, the most important thing is to carry them out extraordinarily well."**

**- Henry David Thoreau**



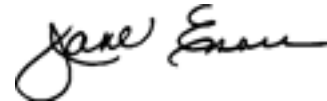
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Gage County 4-H



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**Return Service Requested**

- News Inside-----
- Pinecrest Greenery Order Deadline: Nov. 17
  - 2018 Gage Co. Fair July 25-29
  - Submit your theme ideas by Nov. 15