Nebraska Extension in Nuckolls and Thayer Counties worked to ensure that learning opportunities for local youth were accessible throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Having some prior experience and success in the competition, it was really great to still have the opportunity to compete,” Kylie Beard, Lawrence/Nelson High School Junior and second place individual finisher said. Local youth pasture plant enthusiasts rejoiced after Nebraska Extension partnered with the Little Blue NRD, NRCS Hebron, and Pheasants Forever to coordinate a county-wide Range Judging Contest on September 23 after the district contest was cancelled due to COVID-19. Students also learned about soil systems and ruminant nutrition at Extension-led educational booths.

92% of Lawrence-Nelson elementary students learned about beef by-products during Beef in the Schools.

36 Thayer County 4th graders flew a virtual drone, then designed and competed for distance and speed at Earth Jamboree.

37 students identified plants and judged grazing quality in our annual range judging contest.

Programs At-A-Glance

• 4-H Grows: We sent 50 new-school projects such as pop can robots to students in old-school brown paper bags during our COVID-19 shut down brown bag project campaign in spring 2020.

• 525 feet of steel pipe, 40+ hours, and 5 Lawrence/Nelson welding class students have built swine, sheep, and goat washracks at the fairgrounds for a service learning/school enrichment project.