



4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Nebraska Extension in Madison County
1305 South 13th Street Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone: 402-370-4040
Website: www.madison.unl.edu
Like Us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/UNLMadisonCounty

APRIL



2025

95 Days until Fair

Welcome Betty!

My name is Betty Books, I am the 4-H county extension support staff. I graduated from the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture with a degree in Equine Industry Management. I also grew up showing horses in 4-H at the Madison County Fair.

4-H PRE-ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE TODAY!

An email detailing the guidelines for the pre-entry forms for the Madison County Fair will be sent separately. These forms are accessible in both digital and paper formats.

Start filling yours out today.

FORMS due June 15.

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

4-H Enrollment

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river zegar



We appreciate our 4-H volunteers!

Thank you to all of our 4-H volunteers for supporting and helping our 4-H youth in Madison County!

Be sure to reach out and



Thank your 4-H leaders and volunteers during
National Volunteer Week, April 20-26!

THANK YOU!





4-H

SPRING MARKET

100% of the Vendor Fees will be contributed to the Madison County 4-H Council! Join us and support our area entrepreneurs!

Friday, April 4 5pm-8pm
Saturday, April 5 9am-2pm



The majority of vendors will be present on both days, but be sure to note the few that you can only visit on Saturday!

- Watkins
- Tuttle Handcrated Eats
- Jen's Decorated Digits
- Jay Crochet
- Zya
- Krickette & Lime Boutique
- Suzy's Country Crafts
- Bead Visions
- Worlds Only Winnetoon Goats Milk
- Lotions & Soaps
- Tastefully Simple
- Nicole's Creations
- Constance Crochet
- HayRah's
- Deanna's Designs
- Creations by Ranell
- Hardt Woodworking
- Color Street
- Pampered Chef

- MaRey Boutique
- Little Prairie Magents
- Scentsy
- Welchin' Beads
- Jamie's Creation
- Wiese Down Home Products
- Damme Good Honey
- Madison County 4-H

Friday Only!

- Farmhouse Sweets by Susan

Saturday Only!

- Precious Pearl Boutique
- The Vibe Nutrition
- Mel's Crafts
- Grackle Grove LLC
- RADA cutlery
- Connell's Freeze Dried Treats
- Dragonfly Creations
- Rockin' A Silver
- Stitching Grannies

Food Trucks Available!

- Nub's Grub & Rhonda's Catering
- JuJu Bean (Saturday only)



Madison County Fairgrounds, Madison, Ne



MADISON COUNTY 4-H UPDATES

APRIL 2025



Join 4-H Today at v2.4honline.com

Welcome to the Madison County 4-H Program! Please be sure to enroll as soon as you can to ensure you receive all the information needed to be a part of the 4-H program and participate at the Madison County Fair! Follow this link above for more information about 4-H, clubs in Madison County and how to enroll! Reminder: you only have to choose one project to continue. All project selections will be put on your pre-enrollment form which will be available in soon. Pre-entry forms will be due June 15.

Digital 2025 4-H Fairbook is Available!

Check out the fairbook at <https://extension.unl.edu/sites/unl.edu.ianr.extension/files/media/file/2025%20Fairbook%20%282%29.pdf> to see project areas you are interested in this year! **(printed books will be available soon)**

4-H Camper Spots - April 1 - April 28

Reserve your camper spot for the 2025 Madison County Fair and Rodeo. Open to 4-H families starting Monday, April 1. Call the Madison County Fairgrounds at 402-454-2144. (will open to the public on April 29, so be sure to call) Price per spot is \$125 plus credit card transaction fee.



2025 4-H Fair Book

The newly updated fair books are ready to view on the website! Check them out at madison.unl.edu or use the QR Code to get to the 4-H Book!



*links for information tags/livestock ID's coming SOON. Printed copies available at the office.

4-H Summer Fun Sneak Peak

May

27: Cake Decorating | 9-noon & 1-4
28-30: Engineering Workshop | TBA

June

5: Repurposed Windows | 1-4
6: Cloverbud-Buzzworthy Bugs | 2-3:30
9: Acrylic Paint Workshop | 1-4
10: Babysitting workshop | 10-3:30
10: Virtual Bee Hotel | 10-noon
11: CPR/First Aid Clinic | 8-1:30
17: Insect Collection | 9-4
TBA: Scorch Marker Workshop | TBA

Watch for registration details towards the end of the month!



4-H Speech, PSA, and Presentation Contest - Tuesday, April 8

Submit your PSA and sign up for the speech contest by **Monday, April 7!**

Call in to our office or REGISTER HERE:

<https://go.unl.edu/4irf>



See age divisions and details in the March newsletter. Open to all 4-H members ages 5+
The contest will take place **Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00** p.m. at the Extension Office.

50th Anniversary - 4-H Special Edition

We are looking for 4-H members to sell ads in Madison County to help support the printing of the 2025 4-H Special Edition with the Norfolk Daily News.

A few routes are available. Please contact Sarah for more information!





4-H Livestock News



LAST CHANCE for instructor led training:
April 26th - Madison County Fairgrounds
9am!

All 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors must complete this certification before being able to show at the county and / or state fair.

*Cloverbuds are not required to complete the training!

YQCA Deadline is June 15, 2025

If you have completed an instructor led training, be sure to register and pay for the training so we can complete the certification.

This must be completed by deadline.

If you still need to get certified please visit yqcaprogram.org and complete the course. Be sure to select the correct age group and then send a copy of your certificate to jroberts41@unl.edu.

Livestock Affidavits/ID Sheet

- required for all livestock and small animals for county fair
- print copies on madison.unl.edu or pick up at Extension Office

Bucket Calf Record Books-FREE

- due June 27 - pick up at Extension Office

DNA Samples

- pick up envelopes and return to Extension Office by June 15
- \$7 each to be paid online when you nominate your animal on Show Stock Manager (will inform when available!)

Livestock ID Information

Available at Extension Office:

- Ear tags required for county-only market beef, swine, bucket calves
- EID Tags will be required for market, feeders, and swine attending the State Fair.

DNA samples- required for market and breeding livestock and feeder calves to show at the Nebraska State Fair

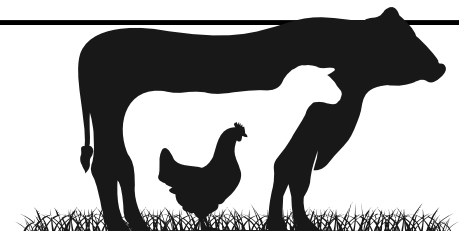
- Tattoos OR ID type that is accepted by the breed association required for registered breeding beef attending the State Fair or EID Tags for commercial breeding beef attending state fair. Breeding beef only attending the county fair can either have a county ear tag and / or tattoo.

- Registered breeding heifers need their registration papers for check-in at the County and State fair.

- Rabbits are required to be tattooed.

- County-only tags: \$1.00
- EID tags (State Fair): \$1.00

- All sheep and goats require scrapie tags for County and State Fair.



4-H Horse Information - County Fair & the State Horse Show

- Need to complete your Horse Advancement Level Test? Just contact the office to set up a visit! To prepare for the test:
 - visit: <https://4h.unl.edu/horse/advancement> for guidelines, study guides, practice tests, and more.
- Interested in showing at the Nebraska State Horse Show:
 - July 12-16 at Fonner Park | Grand Island, NE
 - eligible for ages 8-18
 - entries due June 1 - no late entries accepted.
 - (level testing must be completed by June 1 as well)
 - <https://4h.unl.edu/horse-expo-show-entry>



ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION GUIDELINES- 2025 (4-H/FFA Families) Read identification instructions under each specie.

Rabbit Tattooing & Showmanship Clinic

May 22 - 5:30-6:30 pm

Rabbits will only need to come if they need to be tattooed.

Olivia Santiago will hold a rabbit showmanship clinic at this time.

At the Stanton County Fairgrounds



GOVERNOR'S AG EXCELLENCE AWARD- Due May 31

Sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, the purpose of the award is to recognize 4-H clubs for the work of the individuals in the club and the community service work of the entire club. Applications are due May 31. Check out the following link for more information! ne4hfoundation.org/governors-ag-excellence-award/ for more information. Please direct any questions to Lindsay Shearer by email lshearer2@unl.edu or by calling 402.472.9019.

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION GUIDELINES – 2025 (4-H/FFA Families)

ID sheets for County Fair livestock entries can be found at <https://extension.umd.edu/users/ids/animalid> (4-h animals) and <https://extension.umd.edu/users/ids/stockid> (livestock information) . Read identification instructions under each species.

Project Area	Nomination Process		Pre-Entry Deadline			
	All County Fair Animals will need to complete ID Sheets/Ownership Affidavits. Link found above.	State Fair* Any animal that carries EID tag must obtain a Premier ID to show at the Nebraska State Fair! To nominate animals for State Fair visit https://showstockmgr.com/	County Fair Due Date	State Fair Nomination Due Date *Show Stock Manager Site	State Fair Show Entry Deadline 8 pm	
BEEF						
Market	4-H Ear Tag or EID Tag	EID Tag, DNA & Animal Info Submitted Online	June 15	June 15	August 10	
Registered Breeding	Tattoo or Ear Tag and Registration Papers	Tattoo or ID type that is accepted by the breed association, DNA, Animal Info Submitted Online, Registration Papers	June 15	June 15	August 10	
Commercial Breeding	Tattoo or 4-H Ear Tag	Tattoo or EID Tag, DNA & Animal Info Submitted Online		June 15	August 10	
Feeder Calves	4-H Ear Tag or EID Tag	EID Tag, DNA & Animal Info Submitted Online	June 15	June 15	August 10	
Bucket Calf	4-H Ear Tag	No Class	Record Books- June 27	-----	---	
Cow/Calf	4-H Ear Tag	No Class	June 15	-----	-----	
DAIRY						
Cattle	ID Sheet Drawing and picture	ID Sheet Drawing – only submit at State Fair Check In	June 15		August 10	
Goat	ID Sheet Drawing and Scrapies Tag	No Class	June 15	-----	---	
GOAT						
Breeding	USDA Scrapies Tag	USDA Scrapie Tag, DNA & Animal Info Submitted Online	June 15	June 15	August 10	
Market	USDA Scrapies Tag	USDA Scrapies Tag, DNA & Animal Info Submitted Online	June 15	June 15	August 10	
HORSE						
SWINE	ID Sheet Drawing	ID Sheet Drawing	June 15	June 1	June 1	
Market	4-H County Ear Tag	EID Tag, DNA & Animal Info Submitted Online	June 15	June 15	August 10	
Breeding	4-H County Ear Tag	EID Tag, DNA & Animal Info Submitted Online	June 15	June 15	August 10	
SHEEP						
Breeding	USDA Scrapies Tag	USDA Scrapie Tag, DNA & Animal Info Submitted Online	June 15	June 15	August 10	
Market	USDA Scrapies Tag	USDA Scrapies Tag, DNA & Animal Info Submitted Online	June 15	June 15	August 10	
RABBITS						
Breeding & Market	ID Sheet and Tattoo	No ID Required	June 15	June 15	August 10	
All Poultry	ID Sheet	No ID Required	June 15	June 15	August 10	

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITES



N

BIG RED CAMPS

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
June 8-13, 2025

4H.UNL.EDU/BIG-RED-CAMPS



N | **4-H**
EXTENSION

HOW WILL YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS SUMMER?

THE NEBRASKA STATE 4-H CAMP IS HIRING

- PROGRAM STAFF
- PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

APPLY TODAY
[GO.UNL.EDU/CAMPJOB](https://go.unl.edu/campjob)

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination




WHAT'S THE BUZZ? 2025

NEBRASKA STATE 4-H CAMP
Discover. Learn. Grow.

4-H CAMP 101	July 13-15, Burwell
4-H CAMP	June 22-26, Chadron July 17-21, Burwell
LEADERS IN TRAINING	May 28-31, Burwell

APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TODAY
[GO.UNL.EDU/CAMPSCHOLARSHIP](https://go.unl.edu/campscholarship)

N | **4-H**
EXTENSION

4h.unl.edu/camp | 4hcampst@unl.edu



N | **4-H**

APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 15

LIVESTOCK ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

[4H.UNL.EDU/LIVESTOCK-ACHIEVEMENT](https://4h.unl.edu/livestock-achievement)



4-H AT HOME IN MADISON COUNTY

The featured project for April...

RECYCLED T-SHIRT BAG

TAKE HOME KITS!

DEVELOP A NEW
SKILL!

HANDS ON
LEARNING

ONCE A MONTH!

LIMITED # OF KITS
WILL BE AVAILABLE!

PICK UP THE WEEK OF
APRIL 7



FREE

Too many t-shirts? Us too! Lets recycle our extra county fair exhibitor shirts and make a perfect bag to use at home or to store your fresh produce!

Ages 5+. Limited slots available.

Register here!

<https://go.unl.edu/6i5v>

CONTACT US:

Nebraska Extension
Madison County
1305 S. 13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701
402-370-4040
jroberts41@unl.edu



To learn more, visit us
madison.unl.edu



open to ALL
area youth

LARGE ANIMAL 4-H WORKSHOP

Learn the basics of showing large breed livestock animals, handling/care, fair expectations etc.

9 am	YQCA certification
10 am	beef session
11 am	swine session
(TBD) 12:30	animal nutrition
1 pm	sheep session
2 pm	goat session

[Pre-Register Here](#)



@ **MADISON COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**
4.26.25



WAYNE COUNTY 4-H TIMED EVENT RODEO

July 26, 2025 | 9:00 AM | Horse Arena

Wayne County Fairgrounds
301 Pheasant Run
Wayne NE 68787



- All exhibitors must be a currently enrolled 4-H Horse project member and have completed Horsemanship Advancement Level II. Horses must be currently ID'd as a 4-H Horse project animal. Any county/state welcome.
- Rules according to the current Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide.
- Dress code: Jeans, Long Sleeved Button-up Shirt (does not have to be white), Boots, Cowboy Hat/Helmet
- Age Divisions are determined by youth's age as of December 31, 2024.
 - Junior -ages 8-13
 - Senior – ages 14-18
- More details at:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/585107174225185>

Team Roping

Sunday, July 27 | 1:00 PM | Horse Arena

Stalling available for those that want to stay over and participate.

Classes

- Barrel Racing
- Pole Bending
- Goat Tying
- Break-A-Way Roping
- Dally Team Roping
- Heading
- Healing

Awards

Belt Buckles awarded to class winners.

Entries accepted until July 2, 5:00 PM

- <https://go.unl.edu/waynerodeoentry>



- \$10/event payable day of the rodeo
cash or check accepted

Round Robin Team Roping

following the 4-H Rodeo

- 100% payback
- Open to youth 18 & under or 50 and over capped at a #4
- 12 a side
- \$200 entry fee (cash only) payable day of rodeo.
- **Call or text Molly Stevens at 402-340-8369 to enter. Entries accepted until July 2, 5:00 PM.**



MADISON COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO...

THE 2025 4-H FUN EVENT

JOIN US AT THE YMCA POOL AND FIELD HOUSE IN NORFOLK
FOR AN AFTERNOON OF GAMES AND FUN WITH YOUR
FELLOW MADISON COUNTY 4-H FAMILIES.

MONDAY
APRIL 21ST

2PM - 3PM - FIELDHOUSE
3PM-4PM - POOL

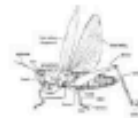
This event is open to members and families of the
Madison County 4-H Program.
It is hosted by the Madison County 4-H Council.

TO HELP US ESTIMATE ATTENDANCE,
PLEASE RSVP TO: SPOLACEK2@UNL.EDU
BY APRIL 18. (NOT REQUIRED)





4-H Plant and Insect Identification Contests



*If you like plants and/or insects, here's an opportunity to build skills and have fun too!
Attend to participate in one, two, three or all four contests!*

Your interest - your choice! Bring a friend too!

4-H'ers could earn a trip to a state and/or national contest!

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Agricultural Park Exhibit Hall Club Room, Fairgrounds - 822 15th Street, Columbus NE

(Entrance to Ag Park is at intersection of 10th Av. and 15th St.)

Approximate Times after Initial Contest

12:15 - Welcome and Instructions

12:30 PM - Entomology (Insect) Identification

1:30 PM - Grass and Weed Identification

2:30 PM - BREAK with Refreshments

2:45 PM - Tree Identification 0

3:40 PM - Horticulture Judging and I.D.

PLEASE BRING A CLIP BOARD TO USE DURING THE CONTEST

Identify plant/insect samples for each contest. For horticulture, there is also 2 judging classes (vegetables, fruits, flowers, or nursery stock). Informational materials available at <https://4h.unl.edu/fairbook/contests>. For

Clip & return registration by Tuesday, June 24th to: UNL Extension, 2715 13th Street, Columbus, NE 68601

2025 Horticulture / Tree / Insect / Grass & Weed Contests Registration

Name/s: _____ Age as of Jan. 1, 2025: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

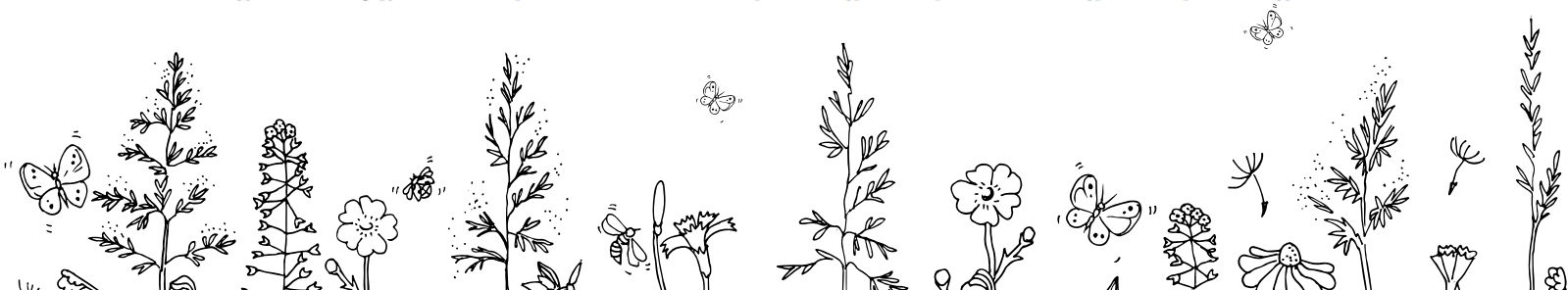
County: _____ Birth Date: _____

I plan to participate in: (please check **one** division and **all** contests you plan to participate in)

Division: 4-H FFA ADULT (for parents)

Contest: Horticulture Tree ID Insect ID Grass/Weed ID

Age Divisions (age as of Jan. 1, 2025: Clover Kids: 5 - 7, Junior: age 8 - 10; Intermediate: age 11 - 13, Senior: age 14 - 18)



2025 CALENDAR

Subject to change.

More activities and workshops will be added in the future!

April

- 4-5 - 4-H Council Vendor Fair,
Madison County Fairgrounds
- 8 - Speech, PSA, & Presentation Contest,
Extension Office, 6pm
- Club Leader Meeting - 7:30pm - Ext. Office
- 21 - 4-H Fun Event at YMCA: 2-4pm
- 26 - Large Animal Workshop - Fairgrounds
- 28- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

May

- 26- Office Closed - Memorial Day

June

- 15- County Fair Deadline Day!
- 15- Fashion Show Entry Deadline
- 26- 4-H Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- Fair Clean Up Madison County
Fairgrounds,
6-8pm
- 19-20 - State Premier Communication Event -
Lincoln
- 30- Bucket Calf Record Books Deadline

July

- 4- Office Closed- Independence Day
- 7-13 Madison County Fair!
- 7- Judging Day (Static Exhibits) 8-noon
- 8- Judging Day (Foods/Horticulture),
Madison County Fairgrounds, 8am-noon
- 13-4-H Fashion Show - 2:30pm in Commercial
Bldg.
- 12-16- State Horse Show,
Fonner Park, Grand Island
- 26- Wayne County Rodeo 4-H Event

August

- 11-19- State Fair Drop Off, Extension Office
- 18 - Extension Office open until 6:30pm for
State Fair Exhibits
- 19 - 'Til NOON - State Fair Food and
Horticulture Exhibit Deadline
- 22- State Fair Begins, Grand Island
- TBA- 4-H Council Meeting,
Extension Office, 7pm
- TBA- 4-H Achievement Ceremony
Nomination and Application Deadline

September

- 1- State Fair Ends
- 4- State Fair Projects Ready for families to pick
up from Extension Office
- 22 - 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

October-National 4-H Month

- 27- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

November

- 27-28 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving

December

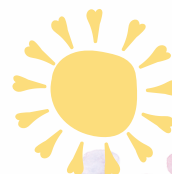
- 25-Jan. 2 - Closed - Holiday Shutdown
**will return to office on Monday, Jan. 5



Sarah Polacek
4-H Educator



Jayd Krueger
4-H Assistant



Leo Gonzalez
4-H Educator

