



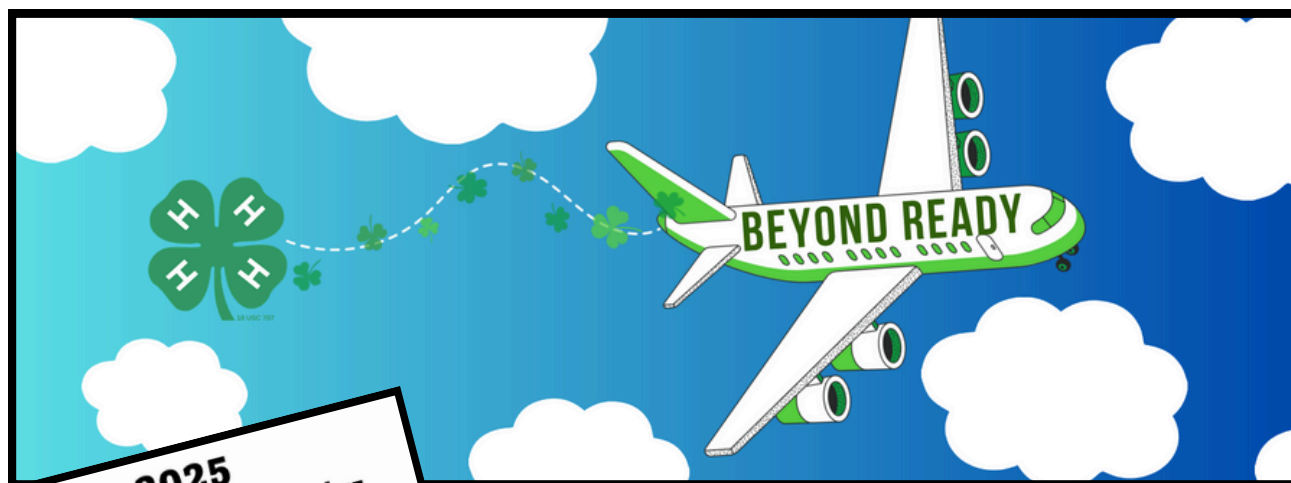
Congratulations to:

Aubrey Baber

Her artwork was chosen for the cover of the 2025 Madison County Fairbook!

She is a member of the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club.

Fairbooks will be available online soon. Printed copies available in April.



SAVE THE DATE!
MADISON COUNTY FAIR

July 7-13, 2025

****4-H Static Judging Day Monday, July 7th**

****4-H Foods and Gardening Judging Day will be held on Tuesday, July 8.**

****4-H Fashion Show will be held Sunday, July 13th at 2:30pm**



ENROLL IN 4-H TODAY!



Welcome to the Madison County 4-H Program! Please be sure to enroll 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 below 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 in upcoming newsletter.

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/madison/4-h/join-4-h-today/>



The drawing is open to youth aged 5-18 and requires payment either online or by visiting our office. If you have any questions or would like to verify your enrollment status, please don't hesitate to reach out!

REGISTER FOR 4-H BY
APRIL 1ST (11:59PM CT)

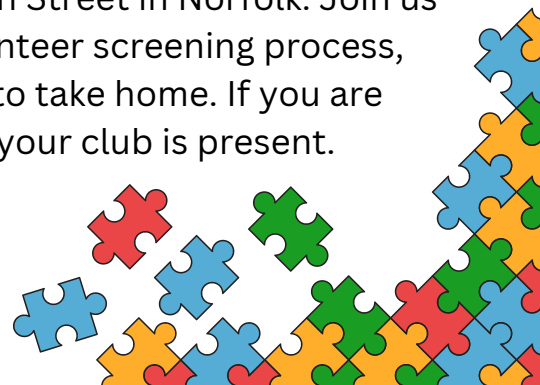
TO BE PUT INTO A DRAWING
FOR A PAIR OF 4-H BOOTS!
SPREAD THE WORD!



We will draw live
on our Facebook
page on
April 2nd!

4-H Leader Meeting - Tuesday, April 8, 7:30pm

All 4-H leaders within the organization are asked to attend the 2025 Leaders meeting. We will gather at the Extension office located at 1305 S. 13th Street in Norfolk. Join us for a session where we will discuss yearly updates, the volunteer screening process, orientation, club requirements, and provide a club activity to take home. If you are unable to attend, please ensure that a representative from your club is present. We would love to have someone from each club join us.



4-H SPRING VENDOR FAIR

The 4-H Council is excited to announce their Vendor Fair, taking place at the Madison County Fairgrounds on April 4th and 5th.

Needing some volunteer hours or service hours, please contact us as we need help setting up tables for the booths on the evening of Thursday, April 3rd.



Quilt of Valor Nominations

We are very excited that the Quilts of Valor tradition will continue in 2025! Thank you to all of you who have helped over the past few years create some beautiful quilts that were awarded to our service men and women. We are currently working on more quilts this year to be awarded! If you are interested in sewing a quilt top together or donating fabric, please let us know! We hope to award a few quilts during the 2025 Madison County Fair and Rodeo! More details about the award ceremony will come later, but right now nominations are being collected. Active servicemen and living veterans who received honorable discharge are eligible.

Please contact the office for a nomination form by calling 402-370-4040 or emailing spolacek2@unl.edu.

Submit nominations to the Extension Office by May 1.

4-H Camper Spots at the Fairgrounds 2025 - April 1, 8am

Reserve your camper spot for the 2025 Madison County Fair and Rodeo. Open to 4-H families on **Monday, April 1** beginning at 8:00 a.m. 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. If paying in cash/, must pay at reservation. Office will be open from 8am-12pm.



**Tickets are now available for purchase—
head over to etix.com to secure yours!**





N | 
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



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

N **BIG RED** **CAMPS**

Animation
The Art of Teaching
Exploring the World Around Us - Data in Sketches and Dashboards
Discover Digital Media
Discover Engineering
Discover Esports
Discover Fashion Entrepreneurship: Branding & Business
Discover Geoscience
Mission Maker: Robots and Drones in Action
STEM Odyssey
Supporting Participation and Advancing Real-world Knowledge in Math and Data
Science- SPARK-MDS
Discover Unicameral Youth Legislature
Discover Weather & Climate Science

APRIL 26

SAVE
THE
DATE

APRIL 8

Large Animal Workshop

Madison County
Fairgrounds - Madison

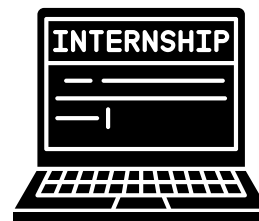
YQCA certification included!
Learn the basics of showing
large breed livestock
animals, handling/care, fair
expectations etc.

Speech, PSA, & Presentation Contest

Madison County
Extension Office
6:00 p.m.

Nebraska Extension in Madison County is looking for a summer intern to engage in 4-H Youth Development and Early Childhood programming. Responsibilities include:

- Assisting with summer programming and partnering with local libraries for 4-H reading programs.
- Participating in the Madison County Fair, including setting up exhibits and helping with animal shows, computer management, and customer service.
- Managing the summer learning kit program for childcare providers, leading activities, and developing new kits and curriculum.
- Coordinating schedules, inventory, payments, tracking finances, and creating an impact report.
- Additional tasks involve assisting with the Growing Together Nebraska donation garden project and other duties as needed.



Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Wayne Ohnesorg at wohnesorg2@unl.edu by noon on **March 14, 2025**, with the internship expected to run from May to early August.

4-H SPEECH, PSA, AND PRESENTATION CONTEST

APRIL 8, 2025 AT 6PM

STATE - PCE
'Premier
Communication Event'
June 19-20 - Lincoln

Share your public speaking skills at the Madison County Speech, PSA, and Presentation Contest Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. Registration is due April 1st. Contact Jayd at jroberts41@unl.edu or 402-370-4040 to sign up for the contest, scan the QR Code, or visit this link

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



PSAs must be submitted April 1 to be judged prior to the contest.

We would love to help you prepare a speech or practice!
Contact Sarah at 402-370-4040 or spolacek2@unl.edu to set up a time!

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Purple \$8.00 Blue \$7.00 Red \$6.00

NO costumes, props, visual aids, etc. will be allowed. Note cards are acceptable. Select the purpose of the speech, whether to inform, entertain, persuade, or motivate the audience. Organization should include an introduction (capture attention and provide central thought of speech), the body (present main points through discussion and examples), and a conclusion (restate central thought and summarize points). Acknowledge the source of information used in the speech. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference and should be cited if directly quoted. Contestants must qualify at the regional contest to compete in the state competition. Only senior division PSA and Speech Regional winners will advance to the state competition.

- **Cloverbuds** – Ages 5 to 7 (reading a poem, story or speech)
- **Junior** – Age 8 to 10 as of January 1;
(1 to 3 minutes)
- **Intermediate** – Age 11 to 13 as of January 1
(3 to 5 minutes)
- **Senior** – Age 14 to 18 as of January 1
(5 to 8 minutes)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Did you know US92 will record your PSA and add sound effects? Or come to the Extension Office and we will help you write, record, and fine-tune your PSA!

Purple \$8.00 Blue \$7.00 Red \$6.00

Public Service Announcement – must be 60 seconds. **The state theme for 2025 is “Ready through 4-H...and beyond”.** Must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska any time of the year. Include the following tag line in the last 10 seconds of the PSA: “Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu”. Include the within the 60-second total time limit. Sound effects and public domain music may be used. Copyrighted material may not be used. Radio PSA’s will only be submitted to the regional and state competitions electronically as a .wav or mp3 format.

- **Junior** Division – Age 8 to 10 as of Jan. 1
- **Intermediate** Division – Age 11 to 13 as of Jan. 1
- **Senior** Division – Age 14 to 18 as of Jan. 1



4-H SPEECH, PSA, AND PRESENTATION CONTEST

Illustrated Presentation

Purple \$8.00 Blue \$7.00 Red \$6.00

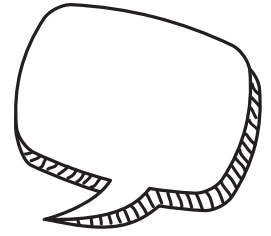
An Illustrated Presentation is a live presentation with a formal talk where youth will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. The judge views the entire presentation and engages in a question-and-answer session following the presentation.

Length

- Individual - Junior Division: 3-5 minutes
 - Individual - Intermediate and Senior Divisions: 6-8 minutes
 - Team - Junior Division: 5-7 minutes
 - Team - Intermediate and Senior Divisions: 8-10 minutes
 - Participants will be penalized if their presentation exceeds the time limit
-
- An Illustrated Presentation may be given by one (1) individual or a team of two (2) individuals. If team members are not in the same age division, they must compete in the age division of the oldest team member.
 - All presentation topics should be related to what the 4-H youth is learning through 4-H educational experiences.
 - Presentations should include an introduction (the "why" portion of the topic), a body (the "show and tell" portion of the topic), and a conclusion/summary (the "what" portion of the topic).
 - Presenters using computer-based visuals may bring files on a USB drive that is PC formatted. Participants may also provide their own computer or other equipment as needed; however, participants must be able to connect their computers to an HDMI cord.
 - At county level, live animals can be used for presentation, however they are not allowed to move on to the state level due to the of the state contest.
 - Alternative ways of showing information about live animals (models, videos, photos, etc.) are encouraged.

4-H SPEECH, PSA, AND PRESENTATION CONTEST

Impromptu Speech



Purple: \$8.00 Blue: \$7.00 Red: \$6.00

The Impromptu Speech competition gives youth the opportunity to write and present a speech around a 4-H-related topic that they select during the competition, where they are given 15 minutes to develop and prepare for their presentation. Judges evaluate the subject, organization, and delivery of the speech.

Length

- Junior Division (ages 8-10): 1 1/2 minutes
- Intermediate Division (ages 11-13): 3 minutes
- Senior Division (ages 14-18): 5 minutes
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- On the day of the contest, participants will have a topic randomly selected for them. Youth will have no more than 15 minutes to develop a speech on the selected topic. Participants will then deliver the speech to judges and audience members.
- Example topic: My Day in 4-H

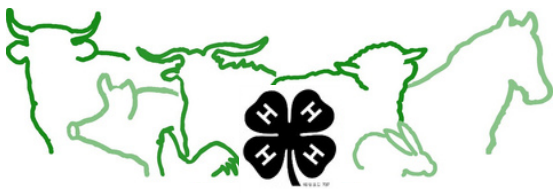
Video Communication

Purple: \$8.00 Blue: \$7.00 Red: \$6.00

The video communication contest allows youth to create a multi-media video around a theme related to 4-H. Judges will be evaluating on both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production.

Length: 60-90 seconds

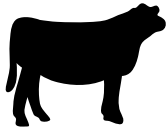
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- Youth may use a phone, laptop, or tablet to create a multi-media piece around the 2025 Theme: "Ready through 4-H...and beyond"
- Sound effects, public-domain music, and graphics can be used. Copyrighted materials may not be used.
- Videos will be brought to us via electronically as MP4 files.



4-H Livestock News

Madison County 4-H Livestock Judging Team

Interested in Livestock Judging?
Madison County 4-H is eager to form one or two teams that will learn how to evaluate animals, and compete in the Premier Animal Science Event at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on June 17-18, 2025. If you're interested, please reach out to Sarah at 402-370-4040 or via email at spolacek2@unl.edu.



Livestock Quality Assurance 2025

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 this training.

Quality Assurance will be offered through the program YQCA, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals again this year - Deadline to complete is June 1, 2025.

Registering for QA will be online at <https://yqca.learngrow.io> using the Family 4-H Online login information for active youth. If you are in both 4-H and FFA, please register through the 4-H login. Be sure you select the 2025 training dates. Face-to-face sessions (1 hour) cost \$3 and online sessions cost \$12. Whether you are completing online or face-to-face certification all registrations and payments must be completed online prior to completion. Refunds can not be given if you cannot make the face-to-face session.

**There is a PRE and POST 'test' in YQCA to complete PRIOR to the office marking.youth COMPLETE!

****Upcoming face-to-face certification: April 26th | Madison County Fairgrounds - Madison, NE**

2025 State Horse Show

There will be NO District Horse Shows again in 2025 however, the Fonner Park State Horse Expo is the pinnacle showing experience for members of the 4-H Horse Program. The show includes a multitude of classes for youth and their horses, such as halter and showmanship classes which are open to all youth. Please be sure to have your Horsemanship Advancement Levels complete by June 1. For more information check out the following link:

<https://4h.unl.edu/horse-expo-show>

July 12-16, 2025
Fonner Park
Grand Island, NE



Nebraska 4-H Youth: Share Your Recovery Stories and Inspire Your Community

Nebraska 4-H families have been working tirelessly to respond to and recover from a series of severe storm events in recent years. In particular, the multiple storms that struck Nebraska in 2024 left a lasting impact on communities across the state. In response, the Nebraska Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) team has created an opportunity for youth to share how they navigated disaster recovery or helped their neighbors and community. We believe that 4-H members have valuable insights and solutions that can help families and communities rebuild more effectively.

Building inclusive networks is essential for supporting all Nebraskans during every phase of disaster management. These challenges are complex, and we all share the responsibility of addressing them together. Through this initiative, we ask Nebraska 4-H members to rise to the challenge and share their stories to contribute to the recovery efforts within their communities.

We invite you to choose a topic that resonates with you. Possible themes include:

- Sharing a personal success story
- Discussing a recovery action, you took or how you helped your neighbors and community
- Offering recovery tips, ideas, or recommendations to be better prepared the next time

We encourage you to share your experiences on one of the following 4-H contests/platforms, where your story can have a meaningful impact. Your participation will help strengthen our collective recovery efforts and inspire others to take action.

- **Madison County 4-H Speech and Presentation Contest - April 8**

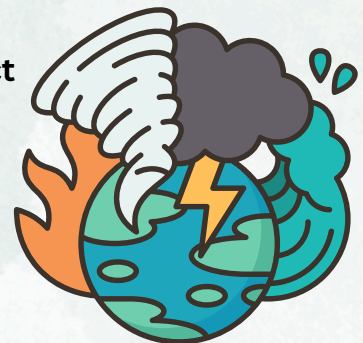
- See information on Previous Page .

- **The Nebraska Premier Communication Event: June 19-20**

- This communication event includes the following contest: Prepared Speech, Impromptu Speech, Radio Public Service announcement (PSA), Illustrated Presentation, and Video Communication.

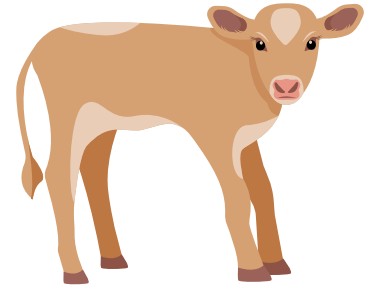
- **4-H Project Showcase**

- Any enrolled 4-H members may submit a project, and any 4-H project is eligible. This includes county-only projects, live animal projects, projects involving contest participation, projects selected for State Fair, projects that could not be exhibited at the county fair, etc.





4-H Bottle Lambs & 4-H Bucket Calves



Interested in showing a 4-H Bottle Lamb or 4-H Bucket Calf at the Madison County Fair? Here's what you need to know!

The purpose of these projects is designed to provide an opportunity for 4-H youth to exhibit an animal, teach basic management skills, and to teach basic record keeping skills.

The Guidelines include:

- 1) **4-H AGE:** 5 through 14 years of age as of January 1 of the current year.
 - 2) **BUCKET CALF:** an orphan or newborn calf, either a heifer or steer. No bull calves allowed. The calf may be beef, dairy, or a cross bred and must be bottle/bucket fed. Calf must be born between February 1 and May 1 of the current year.
 - 3) **BOTTLE LAMB:** an orphan, or newborn lamb born after January 1 and before May 1, male or female; and fed on bucket or bottle.
 - 4) **IDENTIFICATION:** Calf or lamb must have an official 4-H ear tag/scrapies tag by June 15 and be identified on the county identification sheet.
 - 5) **RECORD BOOK:** Every exhibitor will use the specially designed bucket calf/bottle lamb record book for your age group to keep record of their project, complete it with a story and turn it into the Extension office by June 30.
 - 6) **INTERVIEWS:** All exhibitors will participate in an in-person interview during the county fair.
 - 6) **COUNTY FAIR CLASSES:** Calves will be shown with a rope halter in the bucket calf specific class. Beef exhibitors cannot use a show stick. The calf can only be washed and brushed (no fitting or clipping). Bucket Calves cannot be used for beef showmanship.
- Lambs will be shown in a bottle class specific class during the 4-H/FFA Sheep Show. Bottle lambs cannot to be used for showmanship classes.
- 7) **SCORINGSYSTEM:** Ages 8-14 will be judged by adding their total scores for showmanship, interview, and record book. The quality and breed will not be considered. Ages 5, 6 and 7 will participate in all three areas, but as a non-competitive project.



4-H SPRING MARKET

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
- Zyia
- 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

- 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**

2025 Madison County Fair Livestock Judges

(please note that judges may change without prior notice)



Rabbit	Christine Andrews
Rabbit Showmanship (NEW addition!)	Micki Hernandez
Sheep, Goat, Bucket Calf, Swine	Caleb Durham
Beef	Myles Stagmeier
Dairy	Brady Revels
Poultry	Alisha Schroeder
Horse	Chantel Sempek
Dog	Hannah Peterson
Cat & Companion Animal	Charlie Doerr

Madison County 4-H

Dine-Out Day

Thursday, March 27- ALL DAY,
DINE IN OR CARRY OUT!

Join us in supporting the Madison County 4-H Program by dining at Buffalo Wild Wings on Thursday, March 27. A portion of the day's sales will be donated to benefit the Madison County 4-H Program.

**YOU MUST MENTION MADISON COUNTY 4-H
FOR THE PROGRAM TO RECEIVE THE CREDIT.**



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.



18 USC 707



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)



2025 CALENDAR

Subject to change.

More activities and workshops will be added in the future!

March

- 23- 4-H Horse Stampede
- 27 - Buffalo Wild Wings 4-H Dine Out Day

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



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