



# **DAWSON COUNTY 4-H ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT APPLICATION** **REGULATIONS AND DIRECTIONS**

**2025**

**Due Date: September 23, 2025 before 5:00 p.m.**  
**4-H Awards Workshop: August 6, 7:00 p.m.**



The 4-H Incentives and Awards Program begins with you as a 4-H youth doing your best and recording your accomplishments.

The 4-H Annual Achievement Application is an organized presentation of what has been learned and accomplished in 4-H. When accurately and carefully assembled, it is a useful tool for determining progress and personal growth. Careful planning and recording of facts and the selection of only the most important information is essential to preparing a neat, complete and organized application.

All 4-H youth must use the 4-H Annual Achievement Application available on the Dawson County website:  
[www.dawson.unl.edu](http://www.dawson.unl.edu) .

The following materials are required in the County 4-H Annual Achievement Application, and should be assembled in the order listed. Include all materials in one application book. Note the penalizing criteria.

## **1. COVER**

Use an Acco-type fastener (a stiff 8½ x 11 inch binder). These covers can be purchased from the Extension office (\$3.50 plus \$.25 tax = \$3.75). DO NOT USE a loose-leaf ring binder.

## **2. DAWSON COUNTY 4-H ENTRY SHEET (Form 2-2024)**

Fill in name, complete mailing address, phone numbers, email address and birthdate. Date and sign the entry form along with parents' signatures. Signatures certify that the information on this application is accurate and complete.

## **3. DAWSON COUNTY 4-H ACTIVITIES SHEET (Form 3-2024)**

Fill in your name, birthdate, and competition area. Check the 4-H contest and activities you participated in during 2024. The 4-H Council selects 4-H'ers for project medals, trips and Dawson County nominees for state competition.

## **4. NEBRASKA 4-H ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT APPLICATION FOR AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

The Nebraska 4-H Achievement Application serves as an expansion of the 4-H Story from the Career Portfolio. It is a shift in assessing project achievements from micro reporting and exhaustive list making regarding participation to a higher order narrative about the experience and learning that took place as a result of participation. All Nebraska 4-H participants, age 8-18 are encouraged to complete this application for acknowledgement of your annual achievements in 4-H and to be eligible for any county and state level awards.

### **My Experiences – All Applicants Complete this Section**

Answer the following items within a maximum four pages, single-spaced, 12-point font. Please use headings (**4-H Experiences, Leadership Experiences, Community Involvement/Service Learning Experiences, and Career Spark**) to separate your responses. Creativity is encouraged, use bullet lists, infographics, etc. to help tell your 4-H story. The items bulleted are suggestions of what might help us understand your involvement and learning.

#### **4-H EXPERIENCES**

##### **Part 1**

Describe your collective 4-H experience.

- Indicate the depth and breadth of your 4-H experience.
- Identify the number of years in the program.
- Identify program experiences in which you engaged.
  
- What skills have you learned as a result of being a part of the 4-H program?

- What have you learned about yourself as a result of being a part of 4-H?

## Part 2

Describe your 4-H experience within the last 4-H year.

- What was your level of involvement?
- Identify program experiences that you would consider a “highlight” of your year.
  - Describe these experiences. What did you do? What was involved? Who was a part of this experience? Why did you want to participate? What was accomplished through this experience? What was your favorite part of the experience? What did you learn?
- How will this past year influence your future (i.e., 4-H experience, classroom experience, career, etc.)?

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

### Part 1: 4-H Leadership Experiences

Describe your 4-H leadership experiences that have helped build your leadership skills.

- What type of leadership was it? For example: Roles (Club President), Activities (4-H Lend a Hand Day), Experiences (Being a Junior Ambassador for my county).
- When did these experiences occur?
- Identify your part in the experiences:
  - Duties you completed
  - Responsibilities you fulfilled
  - Skills you utilized
- What did you learn about leadership through these experiences?

### Part 2: Non 4-H Leadership Experiences

Describe your Non 4-H leadership experiences that have helped build your leadership skills.

- What type of leadership was it? For example: Roles (Youth Choir Jr. Director), Activities (Sports/Band Camp), and Experiences (Student Council Member).
- When did these experiences occur?
- Identify your part in the experiences:
  - Duties you completed
  - Responsibilities you fulfilled
  - Skills you utilized
- What did you learn about leadership through these experiences?

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Describe your involvement in volunteer service to others and/or the community through 4-H or other opportunities.

- List the type of involvement
- When did the experiences occur?
- What were duties, responsibilities, and skills you used to be successful?
- What did you learn in each of your experiences?

## CAREER SPARK

Describe how your 4-H experiences have sparked your interest in a future career field.

- Spark equals interest and passion young people have that light a fire in their lives and express the essence of who they are and what they offer to the world (Search Institute). What has 4-H “sparked” in you that you are curious to explore? How do you see yourself contributing professionally to your community in the future? How has 4-H influenced how you see yourself in this future role? Explain any experiences you have pursued in connection with your career spark.

## **Representing Nebraska 4-H Section**

### **4-H’ers Applying for National Trips (National 4-H Congress & National 4-H Conference)**

#### **Only Complete this Additional Section**

To serve as a delegate for either National trip, youth must be 15-19 years of age during the calendar year in which the trip occurs. If you are interested in being considered as a delegate for these national experiences, you must complete the additional section titled “Representing Nebraska 4-H.” These national trips will teach you how to grow your capacity as a leader in your community and for Nebraska 4-H.

In one additional page please respond to the items below. Your total application should not exceed five pages. Please use headings (**Representing Nebraska 4-H** and **As a Nebraska 4-H Youth Leader, When I Look at My State**) to separate your responses.

## REPRESENTING NEBRASKA 4-H

- Share why you would like to represent Nebraska 4-H as a delegate at this national leadership opportunity.
- If you are selected to attend one of these opportunities, how will you share the skills and knowledge you gain with others in your county and throughout Nebraska?
- How will you promote this leadership experience to other 4-H members, volunteers and decision makers?

#### **As a Nebraska 4-H Youth Leader, When I Look at My State:**

Please think carefully about Nebraska and write two to three sentences for each topic below that you would share with county, state and national decision makers if chosen for this leadership experience.

- **I am proud of . . . .**
- **I am concerned about . . . .**
- **I want to start . . . . in Nebraska.**

#### **5. 4-H PROJECT AND ACTIVITY PHOTOGRAPHS (One page maximum, done on 8.5 X 11 portrait page.)**

Photographs may be used to illustrate the highlights of the project and activity. Photographs depicting special practices followed, progress, or leadership activities provide excellent documentation. (NOTE: one page of photos will be allowed.) "Action" photos provide more impressive documentation of 4-H activities. May also include honors and recognition received, if necessary to fill the page. Project and Activity Photographs is a composite of the current year.

Photos should be securely mounted on 8.5 X 11 inch paper, portrait, and one side only, with a brief caption explaining the photo. These should be descriptive captions. They might identify event, year, and/or your role. One page maximum per annual application. Digital and color photocopies of personal photos may be submitted in place of actual photos.

#### **6. JUNIOR LEADER PROJECT RECORD SHEETS**

4-H'ers enrolled in the Junior Leader Project must complete the 'Nebraska 4-H Junior Leader Project Record NE4H9040' to be eligible for the Outstanding Junior Leader Trophy. A handwritten or computer generated project sheet is acceptable. The current year's project sheet must be included to be eligible. Also include two past years' Junior Leader Record Sheets. Photographs are only added to the project record sheet when the record sheet asks for photographs.

#### **7. PENALIZING CRITERIA FOR THE 4-H APPLICATION**

The 4-H Council may not review 4-H applications submitted, if:

- a) 4-H Entry Sheet (Form 2-2024), with signatures of member and parent are not included.
- b) 4-H Activities Sheet (Form 3-2024) is not included
- c) Type size, format and pages do not comply with guidelines.
- d) Project/activity photographs exceed a total of one page.

\_\_\_\_\_ County Awards (January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2011)

\_\_\_\_\_ State Competition: (January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2011)

\_\_\_\_\_ National 4-H Congress (youth must be 15 to 19 years of age during the calendar year in which the trip occurs to be considered)

\_\_\_\_\_ National 4-H Conference (youth must be 15 to 19 years of age during the calendar year in which the trip occurs to be considered)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Senior Award: Outstanding Junior Leader Trophy (must complete the ‘Nebraska 4-H Junior Leader Project Record NE4H9040’)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Senior Award: Dawson County 4-H Livestock Premiums funded by the Livestock Boosters

2025 Dawson County 4-H Activities

Name: Birthdate

Junior 4-H Achievement Application Competition: January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016

Senior 4-H Achievement Application Competition: January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011

Use this sheet to list individual participation in 4-H activities. Please put a check on the line next to the activity if you participated in it during 2025.

List your completed 2025 4-H projects  
(not your fair exhibits):

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  
6.  
7.  
8.  
9.  
10.

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.

Participated in:  
Speech Contest at:  
County  
State

4-H Camp  
Served as 4-H Camp Counselor

Presentation Contest at:  
County  
State

Fashion Show at:  
County  
State

Shooting Sports at:  
County  
State

Favorite Foods Show  
Culinary Challenge  
Interview Clothing Judging

Livestock Showmanship  
County Fair  
State Fair  
AKSARBEN  
Livestock Herdsmanship  
Carcass Contest

County Promotion Event:  
Representing 4-H  
4-H Club Float  
4-H Club Booth/Table  
Fundraising Activities

Attended State Level event(s):  
Any "UNL Big Red" Camp  
Leadership Conference  
4-H Horse Stampede  
NAYI  
Any other State 4-H Event  
First Lego League member

Summer 4-H Workshops  
County Fair Setup  
County Fair Cleanup  
County Fair  
4-H Café  
Exhibit Building Watcher  
State Fair  
Other

Please list your 4-H Community Service  
projects that you worked on either as an  
individual or as a member of your club:

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  
6.

Diamond Clover awards  
Level 1 Level 4  
Level 2 Level 5  
Level 3 Level 6

Attended 2024 4-H Achievement  
Barbecue

Other 4-H Contest or 4-H Activity not  
listed above

1.  
2.  
3.

Club Meeting Attendance  
How many meetings?

4-H Leadership  
Club Officer  
Club Committee Chair  
Anything else

County Judging Contests  
Life Challenge  
Livestock  
Horse  
Hippology  
Horticulture  
Meats  
Weed & Grass ID  
Photography

State Contests  
Dog  
Entomology  
Hippology  
Horticulture  
Horse  
Livestock  
Livestock Quiz Bowl  
Meats  
Poultry  
Weed & Grass ID

National Contests

Exhibited at:  
District Horse Show  
State Horse Show  
County Fair  
State Fair

4-H Workshops you attended:

Volunteered at:

## NEBRASKA 4-H SENIOR ACHIEVEMENT APPLICATION

This application is for all 4-H participants ages 15-18. It is used for the selection of county and state awards including the selection of delegates to the National 4-H Congress and National 4-H Conference and the selection of recipients of Nebraska 4-H Foundation scholarships. For more information about Nebraska 4-H Achievement Applications or for additional rules and guidelines, please visit: <https://4h.unl.edu/achievement-application>.

### DELEGATE APPLICANTS

To serve as a delegate for either National trip, youth must be 15-19 years of age during the calendar year in which the trip occurs. If you are interested in being considered as a delegate for these national experiences, you must make that designation on your application as well as complete the additional section titled "Representing Nebraska 4-H." For more information about these National opportunities, please visit:

- National 4-H Congress: <https://4h.unl.edu/congress>
  - Takes place in Atlanta, Georgia
- National 4-H Conference: <https://4h.unl.edu/conference>
  - Takes place in Washington D. C.

Generally, delegate applicants should:

- Be age 15-19 during the calendar year in which the trip occurs to be considered.
- Not have been a delegate to the program in which they are applying
- Be able to miss one full week of school and/or work to attend the program
- Be a participant in the Nebraska 4-H program in any delivery mode
- Be dependable and punctual

Notes for delegate applicants only:

- A fifth page is allowed for delegate applicants.
- As you complete the application, remember that while participation in 4-H programs, leadership and community are important, the information you can share when you return from the leadership experiences is equally important.
- Chosen delegates may be required to travel to an airport that is not the closest to them due to chaperone location and cost restrictions.

### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

Youth interested in applying for state-level scholarships must make that designation on their application, as well as complete the additional section titled "Nebraska 4-H Foundation Scholarships." Additional materials are required for youth applying for scholarships. These materials must be submitted digitally along with the completed Achievement Application. For more information about Nebraska 4-H Foundation scholarships, please visit: <http://ne4hfoundation.org/recognition>.

Note for scholarship applicants only:



- Only the application review committee will have access to transcripts and test scores.

## COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

- Applications must be completed and submitted electronically.
- Limit responses in the “My Experiences” section to a maximum of four (4) pages, single-spaced, 12-point font. A fifth page is allowed for delegate applicants.
- In the selection process, significant accomplishments in your **4-H experience, leadership, community involvement, and career spark** are given more consideration than the number of 4-H projects completed.
- Creativity is encouraged, use bullet lists, photos, infographics, etc. to help tell your 4-H story.

A complete application includes:

1. Designation of Awards and Program Areas of Submission
2. About Me page
3. My Experience answers (4 pages max)
4. DELEGATE APPLICANTS ONLY: Representing Nebraska 4-H answers (1 page max)
5. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS ONLY: Nebraska 4-H Foundation Scholarships page
  - a. Copy of current transcripts
  - b. ACT/SAT scores

## SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Please submit completed applications via email to your county Extension office by the county’s designated deadline. County email address are available at: <https://go.unl.edu/countyemail>.

Following your county review, you may make revisions if needed.

All state-level applications must be submitted via email to [4HAchieves@unl.edu](mailto:4HAchieves@unl.edu) by January 5. Files should be labeled with the applicant’s last name, first name, and county. For example: “Walker\_Robin\_Douglas-Sarpy”



Please check the opportunities for which you are applying. You may check more than one:

	State 4-H Scholarships
	National 4-H Conference (Takes place in Washington D. C.)
	National 4-H Congress (Takes place in Atlanta, GA)
	- Identify the program area of submission below. <b>You may only select one.</b>
<input type="radio"/>	Agriculture
<input type="radio"/>	STEM
<input type="radio"/>	Leadership and Entrepreneurship
<input type="radio"/>	Healthy Living
<input type="radio"/>	College and Career Preparation for My Future

### ABOUT ME

Name: (First Middle Last)	
Present Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
County (enrolled in 4- H):	
Home Phone:	
Cell Phone:	
Email Address:	
Date of Birth: (MM/DD/YEAR)	
Current Age:	

### CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

***By inserting initials below, I certify that the information in this application is accurate and complete.***

Applicant's Signature (typed initials):

Date:

Parent/Guardian's Signature (typed initials):

Date:





Answer the following items within a maximum of 4 pages. Please use headings (**4-H Experiences**, **Leadership Experiences**, **Community Involvement/Service-Learning Experiences**, and **Career Spark**) to separate your responses. Creativity is encouraged, use bullet lists, photos, infographics, etc. to help tell your 4-H story. The items bulleted are suggestions of what might help us understand your involvement and learning.

## **4-H EXPERIENCES**

### *Part 1*

Describe your collective 4-H experience.

- Indicate the depth and breadth of your 4-H experience.
- Identify the number of years in the program.
- Identify program experiences in which you engaged.
- What skills have you learned as a result of being a part of the 4-H program?
- What have you learned about yourself as a result of being a part of 4-H?

### *Part 2*

Describe your 4-H experience within the last 4-H year.

- What was your level of involvement?
- Identify 3 program experiences that you would consider a “highlight” of your year.
  - Describe these experiences. What did you do? What was involved? Who was a part of this experience? Why did you want to participate? What was accomplished through this experience? What was your favorite part of the experience? What did you learn?
- How will this past year influence your future (i.e., 4-H experience, classroom experience, career, etc.)?

## **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES**

### *Part 1: 4-H Leadership Experiences*

Describe your 4-H leadership experiences that have helped build your leadership skills.

- What type of leadership was it?
  - For example: Roles (Club President), Activities (4-H Lend a Hand Day), Experiences (Being a Junior Ambassador for my county).
- When did these experiences occur?
- Identify your part in the experiences:
  - Duties you completed
  - Responsibilities you fulfilled
  - Skills you utilized
- What did you learn about leadership through these experiences?

### *Part 2: Non 4-H Leadership Experiences*

Describe your Non 4-H leadership experiences that have helped build your leadership skills.



- What type of leadership was it?
  - For example: Roles (Youth Choir Jr. Director), Activities (Warrior Football Camp), and Experiences (Student Council Member).
- When did these experiences occur?
- Identify your part in the experiences:
  - Duties you completed
  - Responsibilities you fulfilled
  - Skills you utilized
- What did you learn about leadership through these experiences?

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/SERVICE-LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

Describe two times you were involved in volunteer service to others and/or the community through 4-H or other opportunities.

- List the type of involvement
- When did the experiences occur?
- What were duties, responsibilities, and skills you used to be successful?
- What did you learn in each of your experiences?

## **CAREER SPARK**

Describe how your 4-H experiences have sparked your interest in a future career field.

## **REPRESENTING NEBRASKA 4-H**

### **For delegate applicants only.**

In one additional page, respond to the items below. Please use headings **(Representing Nebraska 4-H and As a Nebraska 4-H Youth Leader, When I Look at My State)** to separate your responses.

### **Representing Nebraska 4-H**

Share why you would like to represent Nebraska 4-H as a delegate at this national leadership opportunity.

These national trips will teach you how to grow your capacity as a leader in your community and for Nebraska 4-H.

- If you are selected to attend one of these opportunities, how will you share the skills and knowledge you gain with others in your county and throughout Nebraska?
- How will you promote this leadership experience to other 4-H members, volunteers, and decision makers?

Please think carefully about Nebraska and write two to three sentences for each topic below that you would share with county, state, and national decision makers if chosen for this leadership experience.



**As a Nebraska 4-H youth leader, when I look at my state:**

- I am proud of....
- I am concerned about...
- I want to start... in Nebraska.



## NEBRASKA 4-H FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

For scholarship applicants only.

### Scholarly Information & Eligibility

Indicate if you are:

<input type="radio"/>	A Current High School Senior OR College Freshman
<input type="radio"/>	A Current High School Junior **Only Eligible for Grand Island Horse Scholarship**
<input type="radio"/>	Other

### 4-H Involvement

How many years have you participated in 4-H?

<input type="radio"/>	Less than 1
<input type="radio"/>	1-3
<input type="radio"/>	4 or more

Are you currently enrolled and active in the 4-H horse program?

<input type="radio"/>	Yes
<input type="radio"/>	No

### Your School & Education Plan

What school/university do you plan to attend?

<input type="radio"/>	University of Nebraska–Kearney
<input type="radio"/>	University of Nebraska–Lincoln
<input type="radio"/>	University of Nebraska–Omaha
<input type="radio"/>	Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
<input type="radio"/>	Other, please list:

(ONLY IF PLANNING TO ATTEND UNL) What college do you plan to attend at UNL?

<input type="radio"/>	College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources (CASNR)
<input type="radio"/>	College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS)
<input type="radio"/>	Other, please list:

### Other Questions

Are you a first-generation college student?

<input type="radio"/>	Yes
<input type="radio"/>	No

### Supplemental Documents

Scan and attach the following documents and submit them along with your Achievement Application. All materials should be sent in a single email. Note: Only the application review committee will have access to transcripts and test scores

- Attach your current transcript
- Attach a copy of your ACT or SAT score results

<input type="radio"/>	ACT
<input type="radio"/>	SAT