

# 2025 Dawson County 4-H Policy Book



# 2025 4-H GUIDELINES & POLICIES

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# 2025 4-H Calendar

# February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Shooting Sports Meeting @ 7pm					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		4-H Meats 7pm @ Extension Office		Cookie Workshop @ 10am Speech Contest Workshop, 3:30-5 pm	Speech Contest Cards Due	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Extension Office Closed	Speech Contest Office Hours 3-5	Speech Contest Office Hours 3-5		Coffee With Extension 9-11	
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
	PSA Contest Entry Cards Due / 4-H Meets 7pm @ Extension Office					
2	3	<i>Notes</i> <b>National 4-H Month</b>				

# March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	1  Weigh Day 9-11/ Bull Judging - 12:30-?
2	3  Speech Contest @ 5:30	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11  4-H Meats 7pm @ Extension Office	12	13	14	15
16	17  4-H Workshop @ 1	18	19	20	21  Coffee With Extension 9-11	22
23	24  4-H Meets 7pm @ Extension Office	25	26	27	28  Communications Events Card Due	29
30	31	Notes				

# April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		4-H Meats 7pm @ Plum Creek Market				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Shooting Sports Meeting @ 7pm		Presentation & Video Equipment Practice	Presentation & Video Equipment Practice	Presentation & Video Equipment Practice	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Presentation & Video Contest @ 2:00 pm		4-H Meats 7pm @ Plum Creek Market			Coffee With Extension 9am - 11 (Garden) Special Garden Workshop @ 1	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	4-H Meats 7pm @ Plum Creek Market					
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
		4-H Meats 7pm @ Plum Creek Market				
4	5	<div>Notes</div> <div>Life Challenge Practice Dates - TBD</div>				

# May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 Dog Clinic
4	5 Shooting Sports Meeting @ 7pm 4-H Meats @ 7 pm Plum Creek Market	6	7	8 Rocket Workshop	9 Rocket Workshop	10 Showmanship & Fitting Clinic TBA
11 Showmanship & Fitting Clinic TBA	12	13 4-H Meats Contest@ 7 pm Plum Creek Market	14	15	16	17
18	19 Life Skills Contest Registration Due 4-H Camp Registration Due 4-H Meats @ 7 pm Plum Creek Market	20	21	22 Coffee With Extension 9-11 Subject 4-H	23	24
25	26 Extension Office Closed	27 4-H Meats @ 7 pm Plum Creek Market	28 Life Challenge Contest	29	30 Sm Animal/ Pet Workshop Time 9-11 Open Dog Practice 1-3	31 Sheep & Goat Weigh Day 9-12pm RSVP Required
1	2	Notes Life Challenge Contest Practice Dates - TBD				

# June 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Horse IDs Due	2	3 4-H Meats @ 7 pm Plum Creek Market  4-H Camp	4  4-H Camp	5  4-H Camp	6	7
8	9 Livestock Judging 9- 2pm 4-H Meats @ 7 pm Plum Creek Market	10	11  Patch Pillow Workshop 1-4	12  Door Charms Workshop 1-3 RSVP required by June 2nd	13 Cooking with Wheat 12-3 RSVP June 5th Lets Get Veggies 4-6pm RSVP June 5th	14
15 4-H Online Closes Livestock IDs Due	16	17  PASE	18  PASE	19  PCE Extension Office Closed	20  PCE / Fashion Show Entry Cards due / Coffee With Extension 9-11	21
22  Boots N Spurs Club Horse Show	23	24 Clove Kid College 9-12 RSVP June 20th Cupcake Decorating 1-2 RSVP by June 20th	25	26	27 Clover Kid College 12-3 RSVP June 20th	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	<i>Notes</i> 4H Office Hours all month long ( come in and let us answer questions or give guidance on 4H projects) Meats, SKILLATHON, Quiz Bowl Practice TBD				

# July 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Clothing Contest LMS	Fashion Show LMS	Online Entries Due Fair Work Day	Extension Office Closed Fair Work Day for 4-H Council, clubs, Extension, Ag Society and Lunch 9:00-1:00 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
State Horse Show	Fair Work Day	Fair Work Day	Exhibit Check In Dog Show	Livestock Check In Bucket Calf Show Feeder Calf Show Dairy Cow Show Horse Judging & Hippology Contest	Beef Show Goat Show Sheep Show	Swine Show Small Animal Show Elite Showmanship
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Horse Show		Achievement Application Workshop				
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	<i>Notes</i> Happy Fair Month!! Meats, SKILLATHON, Quiz Bowl Practice TBD				

# August 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Shooting Sports Meeting @ 7pm					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Coffee with Extension 9-11	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Bring Produce and Baked Goods to Extension Office for State Fair Participants			State Fair	State Fair
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
State Fair	State Fair	State Fair	State Fair	State Fair	State Fair	State Fair
31	1	Notes Meats, SKILLATHON, Quiz Bowl Practice TBD				
State Fair	State Fair					

# September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 Shooting Sports Meeting / State Fair	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Applications Due by 4 / Achievement App Judging @ 5:30	24	25	26 Coffee With Extension 9-11	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	Notes Workshops - TBD Meats, SKILLATHON, Quiz Bowl Practice TBD				

# October 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	Notes Please Pickup your Fair Items and Awards by the end of this month! Workshops TBD Meats TBD				

# November 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Shooting Sports Meeting @ 7pm					
9	10	11 4-H Council Meeting /Extension Office Closed	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Coffee with Extension 9-10	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	Happy Thanksgiving Extension Office Closed				
		Notes	Workshops - TBD			

# December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Shooting Sports Meeting					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Coffee With Extension 9-11	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Merry Christmas / Office Closed		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	Notes Workshops - TBD				



## PART II 4-H

### A. 4-H Purpose & Mission

4-H is the youth education program of the University of Nebraska Extension and the United States Department of Agriculture. 4-H is people - youth - and volunteer leaders - sharing, learning, growing - becoming the best they can be. Nebraska 4-H is comprised of youth, ages 5-18 (as of January 1), and adults. 4-H Youth Development is your first class from the University of Nebraska.

4-H is one of a kind! 4-H provides a series of learning experiences where youth, with help from parents, interested adults, and older youth leaders, grow personally as they develop skills for living and for responsible citizenship.

4-H'ers have fun while they work and learn together. 4-H happens through club meetings, project groups, individual project work, and special activities and events. Skills learned through 4-H help people to be better members of their families, their communities, and their world. 4-H opens doors to career development and to leisure time activities.

The 4-H mission is "4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults." 4-H accomplishes its mission through information education.

### B. 4-H Symbols

The 4-H symbols express the spirit of 4-H.



The emblem is a four-leaf clover of green, with a white H on each leaf. The leaves of the clover represent the whole self: head, heart, hands and health. The clover has long been a symbol of wellbeing. It reminds members that throughout life they can grow and can choose to continue to achieve. To live is good; to manage one's life well is a gift and an accomplishment.

The colors are green and white. Green symbolizes life, growth and creativity; white symbolizes purity or wholeness.

Guidelines for use of the 4-H Name & Emblem are on the Nebraska 4-H website: <http://4h.unl.edu/employee/name-emblem-guidelines>

The motto "to make the best better" expresses the continuing goal of excellence - to take the best one has received, to enhance it, to give it back to life better than before.

The pledge reminds 4-H'ers of goals they share:

"I pledge my head to clearer thinking  
my heart to greater loyalty  
my hands to larger service, and  
my health to better living  
for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

### C. 4-H Club Requirements

Financial accountability is a hot topic in our world today. Everyone is being asked to be more accountable for the dollars they utilize in their organizations and 4-H is not different. Nationally, all 4-H programs are being asked to make some changes. As a 4-H club leader, you have the approval to use the name of 4-H, the use of the emblem and the ability to raise funds for your club in the name of 4-H. These allowances are not a right but a privilege to clubs who have established themselves correctly in their counties and state. With some recent changes in IRS policy that concerns 4-H, it is an excellent time for all clubs across the state to make sure they have met the requirements. Some criteria have existed for many years and some of the requirements are new recently established IRS policies. Regardless, they are all requirements 4-H clubs must attain to stay in good standing in Nebraska. Working with your local Extension staff can help make the process easier. Not all the criteria mentioned below is directly related to financial matters, but they all fit together to make your club compliant in the state.

**Approved Name** – All groups must be formally authorized with a name that is not specific, not overtly religious or represent the beliefs of one denomination over another; does not imply that membership is limited or exclusive; and does not offend or demean any group.

**Club Charter** – An official charter from the USDA must be obtained by all 4-H clubs to be officially recognized. A form from the Nebraska State 4-H Office titled, "Approval for Establishment of a New 4-H Unit" is the starting point for obtaining this national charter. Long-established 4-H clubs also must obtain a new charter using this form, especially if the original charter certificate is no longer available. A copy of the club charter certificate will be kept in the permanent file at the Extension Office.

**Employer Identification Number (EIN)** – Every club that handles money including fees, donations, prize money, etc. must apply for a Federal EIN. This is the IRS identification number for tax purposes and is used on the Annual Treasurer's report form that is mandatory. **The report form must be turned in to the Dawson County Extension Office at the end of the year.** The office will then file the 990N form for your club with the IRS. Please note, this is a **IRS process that must be followed.**

**Bank Account Established** – Most clubs put their club treasury in a bank account, which is recommended over keeping cash with a leader or member. The bank will want your club's EIN number.

**4-H Club Year-End Financial Report and E990 Filing** - Every 4-H club is required to file a year-end financial report of money

received and spent during the 4-H year to the UNL Extension in Dawson County office prior to May 15 of each year. This filing will be archived in the permanent club records at the office and will be used to complete the annual IRS 990-N Electronic Notice for Tax-exempt Organizations. Clubs will report all income, regardless of the amount or whether the income is held in a club checking account or in cash. Every club that handles any money should have a checking account under the club's Federal EIN for transparency reasons in case of IRS review. Club funds should never be kept in personal accounts. Shortly after the end of the year, clubs will receive the required form in the mail and will need to return it to the Extension Office promptly. This gives the office time to have the report filed prior to the May 15 deadline. Note that this is an IRS income tax exemption not a sales tax exemption. Clubs are still required to pay Nebraska Sales Tax on products purchased for club use.

New membership requirements to have a club have been defined by the Nebraska State 4-H Office. To qualify as a club, you must have at least 5 members from at least three different families.

**Youth Protection 4-H Volunteer Screening** – All volunteers that work with youth in any fashion are required to register through 4-H online and complete their background screening. Whether you help with meetings, hold gates, help with shooting sports or sewing, or any project, you will need to be registered and screened. If you fail the screening or refuse to submit to it, you will not be allowed to work with youth. Please see <https://4h.unl.edu/volunteer-screening> for details on this process. Once your screening has been approved, your enrollment will be approved. Caution: this is a big change from the past. You must complete the screening process to be enrolled. The cost of the screening is now **\$16.00** payable with credit/debit card at the time of screening.

Volunteer applicants are screened in order to ensure a safe, positive and nurturing environment for all youth involved with the Nebraska 4-H Youth Development program. The screening provides protection for the child, the volunteer, the educator, the 4-H Council, the Extension Board, and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension. The Volunteer Screening Process is repeated every five years by Extension Districts on a rotating basis. It does not matter if you have been previously screened or been screened by another entity, you will be required to complete this process. If you need help with this process, you may contact the Dawson County Extension Office.

In an effort to protect youth as well as volunteers, the Nebraska State 4-H Office requires that all volunteers traveling and supervising youth overnight complete the online chaperone training at <https://4h.unl.edu/documents/chaperonetrainingonlineinstructions.pdf>. This is not an option. If you travel with youth other than your own, you need to do the chaperone training and submit a copy of the certificate and your driver's license to the Dawson County Extension Office to be placed in the permanent club file.

**Bylaws & Constitution** - The 4-H club must develop a constitution and bylaws. A copy will be kept in the club's permanent file located at the UNL Extension in Dawson County Office. If your club amends your bylaws, the changes also need to be included in the file. A sample copy is available by contacting the UNL Extension in Dawson County Office. The 4-H club can receive the constitution as an attachment via e-mail.

### **PART III - 4-H COUNCIL MEMBERS**

#### **A. Roles & Responsibility of the 4-H Council**

1. Determine and make recommendations on County 4-H policy.
2. Assist the Dawson County Extension staff on long and short-range program planning to establish a balanced program for 4-H youth to include needs analysis, setting priorities and evaluation.
3. Review 4-H Awards applications and select representatives for the various award areas and assist in presenting awards at 4-H Achievement Barbecue.
4. Serve as a link between 4-H members, leaders, the Dawson County Extension Board and the public.
5. May plan, conduct and manage (if necessary) a fund-raising program (EG: 4-H Café) in conjunction with leaders and youth.
6. May serve as the Expansion and Review Committee as defined in the Nebraska Extension Affirmative Action program. The Expansion and Review is required by law and must be assigned to a specific group charged with the responsibility.

The Dawson County 4-H Council is an elected board consisting of nine members. Community representatives are elected according to community or school affiliation: Cozad - 2 members; Eddyville/Sumner - 1 member; Eustis/Farnam - 1 member; Gothenburg - 2 members; Lexington - 2 members; Overton - 1 member. The 6 youth members of the 4-H Council are selected by an independent committee as outlined in the constitution and bylaws. The county 4-H youth must be 14-18 years of age as of January 1st (4-H age). Those selected will serve for 1 year starting and ending at the November Council Meeting and may apply for up to two terms.

Youth members of the 4-H Council are selected by an application process and reviewed by an independent committee of 2 public individuals with former 4-H knowledge plus one member of the 4-H staff. A questionnaire and application are judged, and the top 6 youth become members of the 4-H Council with all office holding capability and voting rights. The application questions are: 1) Why would you like to be on the 4-H Council?; 2) List the 4-H project areas you have completed, number of years in each project area, and your level of involvement; 3) Describe your leadership experiences and responsibilities in 4-H and non-4-H activities; and 4) Describe your involvement in volunteer service to others and your community. The application is available on the Dawson County website: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dawson>. Deadline, **September 23, 2025**.

**B. Members**

Listed below are the current 4-H Council members. They serve through the November policy meeting of the year listed.

2023 – 2025 Shannon Peterson (Gothenburg area) (2<sup>nd</sup> term), President  
 2023 – 2025 Paige McConville (Lexington area)  
 2023 – 2025 Jake Wolfinger (Overton area), Vice President

2025 - 2027 Mallore Barnes (Gothenburg Area)  
 2025 - 2027 Suzie **Wahlgren** (Eustis-Farnam Area)  
 2025 - 2027 Amanda Spradlin (Cozad Area)

2024 – 2026 Jennifer Hunke (Lexington Area) (2<sup>nd</sup> Term), Secretary  
 2024 – 2026 Robert Thompson (Eddyville – Sumner area)  
 2024 – 2026 Taryn Vonderschmidt (Cozad Area)

Youth Council Member selected to a 1-year term: **2024-2025 - Jaelin Wolfinger, Preston Beattie, Casey Wahlgren, Sophia Burns, Taylor Kramer**

Dawson County Ag Society 4-H Representatives – Mike Johnson, Chairman; Logan Vonderschmidt & Jason Schneider

**PART IV - GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS (Agricultural and Family & Consumer Science)****A. General**

**4-H ENROLLMENT DEADLINE IS JUNE 15<sup>st</sup>**  
**COST IS \$10.00**  
**4-H ENROLLMENT IS AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND, HOWEVER,**  
**TO COMPETE IN DAWSON COUNTY FAIR EVENTS**  
**YOU MUST BE REGISTERED BY JUNE 15.**  
**v2.4honline.com**

1. 4-H Enrollment – **Reminder: New state policy requires youth to enroll in 4-H prior to any 4-H participation.** All member enrollments are due by June 15 at <https://v2.4honline.com>. Use the same family profile and password as the past. DO NOT START A NEW FAMILY PROFILE. Please see <https://4h.unl.edu/enroll> for detailed instructions. The registration fee is \$10.00. You must be enrolled by June 15 to participate in county fair and related activities. **If you are unable to pay the full amount, you may put in a request for assistance with the Dawson County 4-H Foundation for partial payment of fees.** Be advised that **some projects and activities have due dates that occur prior to the enrollment deadline.** Contact the Extension Office if you have questions. Online enrollment is required for organizational leaders, project leaders and adult volunteers in 2025 There are no registration fees for adult leaders and **volunteers.**
  2. Dawson County 4-H Club Goals:
    - a) 100% completion of all 4-H projects
    - b) 4-H member participate in public speaking, presentations and judging
    - c) 4-H member submit a 4-H Annual Achievement Application
    - d) 4-H Community service projects by club and individuals
3. **Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence:** The overall goal of 4-H clubs is to develop enthusiastic young people who boldly take action to demonstrate life skills as capable, caring, confident, competent youth of character thus contributing to the improvement of themselves, their family, their club, their community, and their world. One way clubs might choose to measure their success in meeting that goal is their ability to gain status as a Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence. To receive the designation as a "Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence", clubs must meet the following:
  - Have at least five members from at least two different families
  - Recite the 4-H Pledge at meetings
  - Meet at least six times per year
  - Choose/elect youth officers
  - Give youth leadership roles
  - Have one club project (related to curriculum) which they do together
  - Have adult role models/(parental) involvement
  - Are facilitated by a volunteer/organizational leader who has successfully completed the Volunteer Registration and Screening Process
  - Have members who perform a presentation or public speaking at the club level or above
  - Complete one community service project
  - Have members who participate in a county, district, or state event(s)
  - Celebrate member and club achievements

If a Club meets all requirements, they will get a certificate and seal the first year & an additional seal in qualifying years.

4. 4-H Membership Eligibility Requirements: 4-H is open to all youth between the ages 5 and 18 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> (4-H age) regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status.

**Traditional Club Program:** The traditional 4-H program is an organized group of youth, led by an adult, with a planned program that is carried on throughout all or most of the year. The first year of eligibility for 4-H programs is the calendar year the member becomes 9. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member becomes 19. 4-H age is the member's age on January 1 of the current year.

**Clover Kids Program** – Children may join if they are ages 5-7 (as of January 1). This program is designed to enhance the social development of the youth in a group setting with project activities organized by older youth or adults. Youth within this age are not yet ready for competition. Members in this program will receive special ribbons for county fair exhibits and premium money.

**School Enrichment** is offered to school teachers in Dawson County. Teachers may choose a project and will receive appropriate materials and project support. These projects do not have fair entries.

**Youth are enrolled when they are on the membership records in the Dawson County Extension Office. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension will recognize 4-H members and volunteer leaders of the county in which they are enrolled in 4-H irrespective of their place of residence.**

**A member cannot enroll in the same 4-H project area in more than one county or state in the same year.**

**(Example: beef (bucket calf, feeder calf, market beef and breeding beef are among those listed within the beef project area), clothing, horse, foods, etc. Each shooting sports discipline is considered a separate project area.**

**A member may not duplicate specific 4-H experiences by enrollment in more than one county or state in the same year. (Example: public speaking, presentation, scholarship eligibility, record books.)**

**4-H members may apply for county level awards, scholarships, vouchers, etc. in the unit where they are enrolled, as long as they are not applying for similar awards, scholarships, etc., in another county where they may also be a member.**

The membership can be transferred when moving to another county without penalty to the 4-H youth. Requests for transfer of membership should be made through the County Extension Office.

4-H Enrollment – Nebraska 4-H enrollment is online. The program called 4-H Online is located at <https://v2.4honline.com>. There is no paper option. This system gives families more flexibility and responsibility in registering for 4-H. Each family will go online and create a family profile, enroll or re-enroll youth, choose projects and pay enrollment fees. **Registration fee is \$10 due on or before June 15.** Youth may enroll year-round but youth must be enrolled by **June 15 to compete in the Dawson County Fair and related activities**. The enrollment system will have two payment options available. Online payment with a credit/debit card or a check made out to: University of Nebraska-Lincoln and sent to the Dawson County Extension Office. 4-H'ers will be officially enrolled once payment has been processed. Those families that don't have access to a computer may schedule a time to come to the Extension Office to submit registrations. (Please see 1 above).

All materials are a cost item to the Dawson County Extension Service. Because of this cost, a 4-H member gets only one set of 4-H manuals, etc. If materials are lost, the second time around they must pay for the item. **THE 4-H ENROLLMENT RECORD MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE AND ENROLLMENT FEES PAID TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE BEFORE 4-H PROJECT MATERIALS WILL BE GIVEN OUT.** The 4-H Council and County Extension Educators and Assistants strongly suggest that 4-H'ers enroll in no more than 10 to 12 projects. 4-H project leaders get only the leaders guide for the project they are instructing at no cost to them.

5. 4-H Clubs are always looking for community service projects. Please contact [Sarah Fanning](#) at the Dawson County Extension Office if you need ideas for community service projects.
6. 4-H leaders & parents are urged to request 4-H members write thank-you notes to sponsors of awards, trips, showmanship trophies, medals, etc.
7. 4-H leaders and parents are urged to request 4-H members invite school teachers, community leaders, and businessmen to look at 4-H projects and visit county 4-H events.
8. All 4-H clubs are encouraged to hold an achievement meeting for their own club and to invite parents and friends of 4-H. The 4-H Council suggests the program be put on by the 4-H members to include such items as reports on their experiences in a project, tour, presentation, camp, award trip, display of projects ... or the council & extension staff encourage two or three clubs in a community to hold a joint achievement meeting.

9. The Extension Office has audio/visual and other equipment available to clubs. When 4-H'ers, parents and 4-H leaders borrow visual aids, tripods, ear taggers, etc. from the County Extension Office, please see that they are returned within 2-3 days.
10. All clubs should have ONE ORGANIZATIONAL 4-H LEADER. All adult volunteers are considered in 4-H Online as assistants or project leaders. If you help with any meeting, event or project, you must register. When you register, please **select one or more projects from the available dropdown list that you might help with**. For procedures, see section A.1. for further instructions or contact the Dawson County Extension Office. 4-H Junior leaders should be given specific responsibility.
11. All volunteers are required to fill out a background check online at a secure portal by Sterling Volunteers. When you enroll online at: <https://v2.4honline.com>, background check information will be displayed. There are no enrollment fees for adult volunteers, however there is a \$16 fee that is paid when you do a background check. (see Youth Protection Volunteer Screening section)

Dawson County 4-H suggests that the judge consider awarding: Purple 15%; Blue 40%; Red 40%; White 5%; ribbons. However, the judge will make the final decision.

#### **B. Youth Activity Safety Policy**

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a strong interest in protecting the safety of youth in all UNL-sponsored programs and events, including those offered through the UNL Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. Therefore, in September 2012, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln implemented a Youth Activity Safety Policy, <https://4h.unl.edu/resources/4-h-policy-procedures-handbook/youth-activity-safety-policy/> in order to provide a safe, educational and enjoyable activity/program experience for all participants.

#### **C. Grievance or Protest Policy**

2. Grievances or protests related to the County 4-H Policy will be handled by the 4-H Council and the Dawson County Extension Office.
  1. Extension Educators responsible for Dawson County 4-H, in concert with the local 4-H Council has the authority to make appropriate decisions on 4-H disputes locally. These decisions will be formulated using state policy and national directives as formulated by the law.
  2. All protests must be submitted in writing and signed by the protester.
    - The written protest must include:
      - Names of persons involved
      - Cause of complaint or appeal
      - Situation and documentation
      - Recommendations for correction
      - Specific action, rule, etc., in question
      - Additional committee persons who may be contacted for further clarification
      - Procedures and/or steps carried out by the person involved prior to submission of the protest to the 4-H council.
      - Protests will not be accepted more than 24 hours after the conclusion of a 4-H activity/event in question.
      - The protest will be acknowledged after receiving the written protest and will be responded to in a timely manner.
    - Protests related to judges' integrity, decisions, placings or their evaluations will not be accepted.
    - A \$50 deposit will accompany the written protest, which will be forfeited if the protester does not attend the protest resolution meeting. The deposit will be returned upon completion of the process.
3. A committee, consisting of two council members, one or two extension member(s) and one Ag Society member (Ag Society is only involved in fair related issues), will review the written protest. At that time, they may call for a face-to-face meeting with affected persons and event leadership to discuss the situation and the official ruling. Recommendations will be developed, followed, and communicated both verbally and in writing to the individual or group affected. Failure of the protester to attend the face-to-face meeting with the Protest Committee will result in forfeiture of the deposit.
4. In cases of protest, the 4-H member/parent/leader may continue to participate, but results of participation will be subject to change based on the outcome of the protest process.
5. The Protest Committee and Event leadership reserve the right to withhold any award. The 4-H member/parent/leader may be excluded from 4-H if action warrants.

#### **D. Training & Recruitment Opportunities**

Leader & Volunteer Training

- 4-H Leader Training Meeting – **TBA, 7:00** p.m. at the Dawson County Extension Office.

#### **E. H Recruitment Events – TBA**

- Follow Dawson County 4-H on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DawsonCountyNebraska4H](http://www.facebook.com/DawsonCountyNebraska4H) or check e-mails for training and recruitment announcements.

### **PART V - 4-H CONTEST, ACTIVITIES, DATES AND GUIDELINES**

#### **A. Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program**

The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program is designed to encourage 4-H youth to engage in a variety of projects and activities that will enable members to acquire the life skills necessary to lead successful lives as competent, caring and contributing citizens. The program's overall goal is to provide 4-H members a rich and diverse learning experience. The program consists of six levels that require a 4-H member to plan and report a broad range of age-appropriate accomplishments. The program is designed to enable every 4-H member willing to exert the effort an opportunity to be recognized, regardless of how they are involved in 4-H.

The requirement for 4-H'ers to complete the **Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Plan** is to have their **plan reviewed, obtain signatures and turn them into the Extension Office by June 15 before 5:00 pm or postmarked by June 15**. The plans will be reviewed and kept on file in the Extension Office. 4-H'ers will report on their accomplishments throughout the 4-H year. **The completed Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Report is due in the Extension Office on September 23, 2025 before 5:00 pm**. The reports will then be reviewed and compiled with the plans. If the plan and report is **NOT** completed as required, they will then be returned to the 4-H'er to give them ONE last chance to complete the process.

NEBRASKA 4-H DIAMOND CLOVER PROGRAM LEVELS			
	Corresponding Gemstone	Anticipated for	Complete at least
Level 1	Amethyst	ages 8-9	3 accomplishments
Level 2	Aquamarine	ages 10-11	4 accomplishments
Level 3	Ruby	ages 12-13	5 accomplishments
Level 4	Sapphire	ages 14-15	6 accomplishments
Level 5	Emerald	ages 15-17	7 accomplishments
Level 6	Diamond	ages 16 & up	8 accomplishments

#### B. 4-H Achievement Barbecue

All 4-H families are invited to the Annual 4-H Achievement Barbecue. The free barbecue and recognition program will be held on Saturday October 4, 2025, 5:00 p.m. at the Dawson County Fairgrounds.

The barbecue is sponsored by Dawson County Cattlemen, Pinnacle Bank and Dawson County 4-H Foundation.

#### C. 4-H Public Speaking Contest

**February 14** - Speech Contest entry cards are due.

**February 24** - Public Service Announcement recording along with the PSA text are due electronically before 5:00 p.m.

**March 3** - Dawson County 4-H Public Speaking Contest, Extension Building, Lexington, 5:30 p.m. All age divisions.

The 4-H Public Speaking Contest will be divided into 3 divisions, plus a PSA (Public Service Announcement) category.

- Junior Division, 8 - **10** years old as of January 1.
- Intermediate Division, **11** - 13 years old as of January 1.
- Senior Division, 14 -18 years old as of January 1.
- Public Service Announcement, 8-18 years as of January 1. (PSA's with written copy submitted electronically) due February **23** before 5:00 p.m.)

The contest rules are available at the Extension Office.

Bluetooth headphones, courtesy of county sponsor KRVN will be presented to the high individual in each of the three speech divisions. An individual may receive the headphones only once in the Junior, Intermediate Division and once in the Senior Division. Two \$10.00 bills, courtesy of the 4-H Foundation, will be presented to the two high individuals in the PSA category. An individual may receive the cash only twice. All 4-H'ers receive \$10.00 for participating in the Speech Contest courtesy of the Dawson County Bankers.

All speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.

Video Tape Speech - If a 4-H'er will not be in the county on the date set for the contest, videotaping is an option.

Guidelines are: must be done prior to contest, must furnish video camera and camera person, needs to be on a USB drive that is PC formatted. Only one taping allowed and must have extension staff present.

The county can send five individuals per Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Speech Division and PSA Category to the State contest.

A 4-H member can be a repeat county winner in the State Contest. **The State 4-H Premier Communication Contest**

**Contest is June 19 & 20, 2025, in Lincoln. The event will include contest classes, including the areas of prepared speech, radio public service announcements (PSA's), illustrated presentations, impromptu speech, and video communication.**

Recording Speech - If a 4-H'er will not be in the county on the date set for the contest, recording is an option. Guidelines are: must be done prior to the contest, must furnish a recording device, needs to be on a USB drive that is PC formatted. Only one recording allowed and must have extension staff present.

Horse speeches need to be pre-registered online for state competition on or before February 28. Contact the 4-H Extension Educator prior to that. 4-H'ers need to be 10 years of age, but not over 18 years of age, on January 1 of the current year, to enter in Horse Stampede Speech. The competition will take place at the UNL Horse Stampede on March 29 and 30, 2025 at the UNL Animal Science Complex. More information can be found at: <https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/horse-program/horse-stampede/>

**D. Illustrated Presentation & Video Communication Contests (formerly Presentation Contest)**

March 28 – Communication Event entry card due

April 10 and 11 – Presentation & Video Equipment Practice, Dawson County Extension Office. Schedule time with Extension Office 324-5501.

April 13 – 2:00 p.m. 4-H Communications Event Contest, Dawson County Extension Office

Youth must be currently enrolled in 4-H to participate in the Communication Event. 4-H'ers can compete in the Illustrated Presentation Contest and Video Communication Contest. An entry card must be returned to the Extension Office by March 22nd. The program and schedule will be prepared and printed after the entry deadline and sent to the participating 4-H members.

Age Divisions: Junior: ages 8-10 as of January 1 of the current year  
Intermediate: ages 11-13 as of January 1 of the current year  
Senior: ages 14-18 as of January 1 of the current year

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**Illustrated Presentation Contest**

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.

**Rules:**

- Length: Junior Division Individual: 3-5 minutes; Intermediate and Senior Division Individual: 6-8 minutes; Junior Division Team: 5-7 minutes; Intermediate and Senior Division: 8-10 minutes. At State Contest, 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. Team members will each receive the premium earned.
- All presentation topics should be related to what the 4-H youth is learning through 4-H educational experiences. Enrollment in the project area in which the participant is making a presentation is not required.
- 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).
- Participants must provide all equipment necessary for their presentation. 4-H'ers are to set up supplies for presentations in the conference room on tables provided, then move supplies to the contest room within a 4-minute period. Presenters are expected to clean up the areas in which they work.
- Equipment provided includes two (2) tables, one (1) easel, PC compatible computer (including Microsoft PowerPoint), and a LCD projector.
- Presenters using computer-based visuals should 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.
- The judge views the entire presentation and engages in a question-and-answer session following the presentation. The basis for judging will be skill, teamwork, and result procured.
- Live animals may be used in the presentation. Presenters are responsible for all stalling arrangements, care, and handling of animals. Animals can only remain in the presentation area while the owner is present.
- If a 4-H'er, 10 years of age and older as of January 1, will not be in the county on the date set for the contest, they must have permission from the Extension Educator, be preregistered and listed on the schedule to record their presentation to qualify for State Fair competition. Guidelines are: must be done prior to contest; must furnish recording device and camera person; needs to be on flash drive; only one taping allowed; and must have extension staff present.
- 4-H'ers, parents, leaders, etc. are not to visit with the judge about presentations until the results are announced.

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**Video Communication Contest**

The **Video Communication Contest** allows youth to create a multimedia video around a theme related to 4-H. The Judge will be evaluating both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production.

**Rules**

- 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 multimedia piece around the theme: "Ready through 4-H... and beyond!"

- Sound effects, public domain music and graphics can be used. Copyrighted materials may not be used.
- The multimedia video must be done as an MP4 file and brought to contest on a flash drive.

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All participants will receive ribbons and premium money. The Dawson County Bankers will also award \$10.00 to each 4-H'er in the county contest.

Dawson County Farm Bureau will provide a plaque to be exhibited in the 4-H Building to the top Agriculture and top Home Economics 4-H Club at the Contest. The club is to be selected from their individual or team demonstrations based on Purple-4 points; Blue-3 points; Red-2 points; White-1 point. 4-H members listed on the individual club enrollment sheet will constitute the club. Ties will be broken with the club which has the most purple or blue ribbons.

**State Premier Communication Event - June 19 & 20, 2025, 8:30 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, East Campus, Lincoln, NE.**

Youth must receive a purple ribbon at the county contest and be selected to participate in the State Premier Communication Event. Counties may select up to five (5) contestants in Intermediate Illustrated Presentation Division, Senior Illustrated Presentation Division, Intermediate Video Communication Division, and Intermediate Video Communication Division.

NATIONAL CONTESTS - Rules & regulations available at the Extension Office.

National 4-H Horse Classic Contest - 4-H Club member, ages 14-18 as of January 1. The state individual and team demonstration winners will participate in the National Contest in Denver Colorado. TBA.

Horse demo-talks need to be pre-registered for the State Contest in Lincoln before. Contact the **4-H Extension Educator**, Sarah Fanning prior to that. 4-H'ers need to be 10 years of age, but not over 18 years of age, on January 1 of the current year, to enter in State 4-H Individual & Team Demonstrations.

#### **E. 4-H Incentives and Awards Program**

- Dates:
  - July 23** 4-H Annual Achievement Application for Awards & Recognition Workshop - 6:00 p.m. - Learn the ABC's of filling out and assembling awards application to apply for awards.
  - September 23** 4-H Award Applications due in Extension Office prior to 5:00 p.m.
  - September 23** 4-H Council Awards selection meeting 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- What is the Nebraska 4-H Annual Achievement Application?  
The Nebraska 4-H Annual Achievement Application is for all 4-H participants ages 8 to 18. The application documents annual achievements in 4-H. It is used for the selection of county, state and national awards and recognition.

All 4-H youth must use the Nebraska 4-H Annual Achievement Application for Awards & Recognition forms.

- Awards available are: (results announced at 4-H Achievement Barbecue)
  - 3-, 5-, & 10-year pins for years of membership
  - "Keep Up the Good Work" ribbon to all who submit awards applications.
  - "Good Start Trophy" - Four younger 4-H'ers recognized for being off to a good start. Birthdates: **January 1, 2015** to December 31, **2016** (a 4-H'er can receive this trophy only once)
  - "Great Job Trophy" - Four younger 4-H'ers recognized for continuing to build a 4-H record. Birthdates: January 1, **2012** to December 31, **2014** (a 4-H'er can receive this trophy only once)
  - \$75 Dawson County 4-H Camp Scholarships awarded to younger 4-H'ers who turn in the 4-H Achievement Application.
  - Nominees to state competition. (Birthdates: January 1, **2007** - December 31, **2011**). \$25 Cash Award to the top 8 individuals. A 4-H'er cannot win more than one \$25 Cash Awards per year.
  - Project medals (birthdates: January 1, **2007** - December 31, **2011**)
  - Trips to Nebraska 4-H State Camp/Conference (birthdates: January 1, **2007** - December 31, **2011**)
  - Other special awards - ex. Outstanding Junior Leader (must be enrolled in junior leader project & completed Junior Leader record sheets), I Dare You Award, Outstanding 4-H Member Service Award, etc.
- Appropriate ribbons will be given to all 4-H'ers who turn into the Extension Office their Nebraska 4-H Annual Achievement Applications for 4-H Council review.

#### **F. Nebraska 4-H Gives Back: Major Service-Learning Project**

The Nebraska 4-H Gives Back program is an opportunity for a Nebraska 4-H member or a team of 4-H'ers to make a meaningful contribution to their community. This state award recognizes the impact that 4-H youth make in their communities and celebrates the spirit of service-learning, a pillar of the 4-H experience.

Nebraska 4-H Gives Back projects are advised by local committees and reviewed and recognized at the state level. Participants of the Nebraska 4-H Gives Back program receive an award and are showcased statewide.

To achieve the Nebraska 4-H Gives Back honor, a 4-H member or team must complete a major service-learning project that benefits his/her community. Each 4-H member or team are responsible for the creation, coordination, and implementation of the project. The project must be of lasting value and large enough in size and/or scope to be worthy of Nebraska 4-H Gives Back recognition. 4-H members should plan on investing over 100 hours of service and understand that it may take up to 24 months to complete this project. The project includes an initial proposal and final report that are both approved and reviewed in a two-step process. Proposals are developed and approved first by the local committee, and then by a State 4-H Program Administrator prior to the start of the project. Upon completion of the service-learning project, a final report is created to be reviewed and approved by the local committee, and then by a State 4-H Program Administrator.

Recipients will receive individual certificates of recognition once their project is completed, as well as, a \$100 award to be received by the team or individual recipient. This can be used to celebrate their accomplishments or fund a future 4-H project. Recipients and their projects will also be showcased by Nebraska 4-H online.

Nebraska 4-H Gives Back Resources are available at <https://4h.unl.edu/ne4h-gives-back>

#### G. 4-H Camps & Conferences

**June 3-5** - Dawson County 4-H Camp at Camp Comeca

1. A 4-H'er must be 8 - 13 years of age at the time of the Dawson County 4-H Camp.
2. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to take the 4-H'er to the camp and to pick the 4-H'er up after camp is over.
3. Approximate cost is \$130.00
4. Five partial scholarships will be available based on family financial need, and an essay written by the 4-H'er on "why I would like to go to Camp".
5. \$75 Dawson County 4-H Camp Scholarships awarded to 4-H'ers who turn in the 4-H Award Application.

#### H. 4-H Dog Program

If you intend to participate in the dog program, please contact the Extension Office for details and the leader contact information.

**July 16** - Dawson County Fair 4-H Dog Show

#### PART VI - DAWSON COUNTY FAIR - 4-H DIVISION

**– Pre Entries date has moved closer to fair! Pre-Entries are due JULY 11**

**In 2024, Dawson County 4-H Fair went to an online pre-entered fair in. All livestock and static exhibits will be included in the system. The deadline for ALL pre-entered 4-H exhibits is July 11, 2025. The how-to instructions will be emailed once they have been received from the State 4-H Office. An early deadline is for CLOTHING, pre-entries MUST be complete by JUNE 20. No late entries will be accepted.**

#### A. Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent system has worked very satisfactorily in the 4-H Department. Each year, last year's Assistant Superintendent is moved to Superintendent, and a new Assistant is approved by the 4-H Council from 4-H leaders and parents. This gives more people an opportunity to assist and work with our fair.

Project	Superintendent	Asst. Superintendent
Beef	<b>Taryn Vonderschmidt</b>	Shannon Peterson
Beef Muscle Evaluation	Paul & Shannon Peterson	Scott Aden
Feeder Calf	Jana Kopf	Jason Schneider
Dairy Cattle	Malloree Barnes	Cody Wolf
Bucket Calf	Malloree Barnes	Cody Wolf
Swine	<b>Patrick Peterson</b>	<b>Drew Franzen</b>
Hog/Sheep Muscle Evaluation	<b>Patrick Peterson</b>	<b>Drew Franzen</b>
Horse	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Sheep and All Goats (meat & dairy)	Tim Negley	Jake Wolfinger
Sheep and Goat Muscle Evaluation	Jake Wolfinger	Tim Negley
Rabbit & Poultry	<b>Lisa Kennicutt</b>	<b>Sara Nichols</b>
Dog	<b>Malloree Barnes</b>	<b>Susan Nichols</b>
Shooting Sports	<b>Amanda Spradlin</b>	<b>Eric Schroeder</b>
Herdsmanship	<b>Logan Vonderschmidt</b>	<b>Doug Rohde &amp; a 4-H'er</b>
Clothing	Carol Keiser	Sharon Pearson
Foods	Marti Fischer	Jill Luther
Home Environment	Jennifer Hunke	Jessica Bliven
Ag, Home Ec. Related & Rocketry	Barb Batie	Tina Thompson
Photography	Chris Wolff	
Horticulture	Kristi Kreuscher	Amanda Spradlin

4-H Café Manager

Vickie Unterseher

**B. 4-H Schedule - 2025 Dawson County Fair****WEDNESDAY, JULY -9**

9:00- 1:00 pm

4-H Clothing Contest – Lexington Middle School

**THURSDAY, JULY -10**

7:30 pm

4-H Public Fashion Show – Lexington Middle School

**FRIDAY, JULY -11**

9:30 am

4-H Superintendents meeting for 4-H Family & Consumer Science related and other misc. static exhibits, 4-H Exhibit Building  
 4-H Livestock Superintendent's meeting

**SATURDAY, JULY -12**

4-H and AgSociety Fairground Clean Up Day, 9 AM, lunch provided  
 Shooting Sports Contest- Small bore pistol, rifle, shotgun, and muzzleloader, made possible by the Shooting Sports Leaders Committee, Time TBA

**SUNDAY, JULY -13****MONDAY, JULY -14**

9:00 am

Livestock Area set up by Horseshoe Bend 4-H Club

**TUESDAY, JULY 15****WEDNESDAY, JULY 16**

8:00 am-7:30 pm

9:00 am-1:00 pm

1:00 pm-8:00 pm

4:00 pm

5:00 pm

5:30 pm

8:00-9:00 pm

4-H Café open  
 Enter all 4-H Food, Misc. Ag, & Home Environment static exhibits (except livestock & small animals), and FFA Static.  
 Judge all 4-H static exhibits and display 4-H static exhibits  
 Setup for Dog Show  
 Enter 4-H Dogs  
 4-H Dog Show – Teardown Dog show equipment after event  
 4-H Exhibit Building open to public after completion of judging

**THURSDAY, JULY 17**

8:00 am-7:30 pm

9:00 am-9:00 pm

7:00 am-9:00 am

9:00 am-11:00pm

12:30 pm

1:00 pm

1:30 pm

3:00-4:30 pm

4-H Cafe open  
 4-H Exhibit Building open  
 Check in Bucket Calves, Dairy & Feeder Calves  
 Enter Beef, Dairy, Meat Goats, Sheep, Swine, Enter Poultry and Rabbits – FFA Barn  
 Bucket Calf Show – Stevens Arena  
 Dairy Show – Stevens Arena  
 Feeder Calf Show – Stevens Arena  
 Root Beer Floats/Courtesy Homestead Bank  
 Use northeast gate only to bring in livestock – park trailers in North Parking lot  
 –**ABSOLUTELY no pickups and trailers parked east of the beef barn**

**FRIDAY, JULY -18**

7:30-8:30 am

8:00 am-7:30 pm

9:00 am - 9:00 pm

9:00 am

10:00 am

1:30 pm .

4:00 pm

4:00 p.m.-5:00 pm

**Exhibitor Breakfast/Courtesy Eastside Animal Center**  
 4-H Cafe open  
 4-H Exhibit Building open  
 Sheep Show, beginning with Clover Kid Sheep Show – Stevens Arena  
 Meat Goat/Dairy Goat Show (beginning with Clover Kid Goat Show) or 30 minutes following the sheep show – Stevens Arena  
 4-H Ag Olympics Competition  
 Beef Show Stevens Arena  
 Free watermelon feed/Courtesy Plum Creek Market Place ?  
**ABSOLUTELY no pickups and trailers parked east of the beef barn.**

**SATURDAY, JULY 19**

8:00 am-7:30 pm

9:00 am-8:00 pm

9:00 am

10:30-12:00 pm

4-H Cafe open  
 4-H Exhibit Building open  
 Swine Show with Clover Kid Swine Show - Stevens Arena  
 Rocket Launch – Raceway In-Field

12:00-1:00 pm	Enter 4-H small animals, pets and cats (pets & cats released after show)
1:00 pm	Interview & judge 4-H Small Animals & Pets – Southwest Corner of Stevens Arena
Following Small Animals	4-H Cat Show – Stevens Arena
Following Cat Show	4-H Rabbit Show & 4-H Poultry Show – Stevens Arena
4:00 pm	Elite Showmanship test at Extension Office
5:00 pm	Elite Showmanship Contest – Stevens Arena
5:00 pm	Release Entry for <b>Horse Exhibitors Only</b> of Livestock and small animals.

Take down and put away equipment following shows by Tail Twisters 4-H Club  
**ABSOLUTELY** no pickups and trailers parked east of the beef barn.  
 Release Livestock

10:00 pm  
**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

7:00 am – 11:00 a.m. Release Livestock, 4-H Static Exhibits, and FFA. **All livestock must be off the grounds by 11:00 a.m.** 4-H'ers will forfeit premium money if exhibits leave early. No exceptions unless approved by Dawson County Ag Society.

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	4-H Café Open
9:00 a.m.	Enter 4-H Horses
10:00 a.m.	4-H Horse Show – Stevens Arena

2025 County Fair Dates	July 10-20 (tentative)
2026 County Fair Dates	July 9-19 (tentative)

### C. 4-H Café

Dawson County 4-H Café Schedule –

**Saturday July 13, 2025, Wednesday July 16 through Sunday July 20, 2025**

The Café is open to 4-H'ers, their families and the public each day of the fair. The café is the annual fund raiser for the 4-H program. Profits are given to the Dawson County 4-H Foundation. Clubs are to provide adults and 4-H'ers to work in shifts. Vickie is not asking for pie money but if you feel that you wish to make a donation to the café, see Vicki during times that the café is open or when you work your shift. 4-H clubs and the members' cooperation, support, and help are greatly needed and appreciated. The Dawson County 4-H Foundation funds many of the 4-H member and leader activities and recognitions and benefits all 4-H families.

### D. County Fair 4-H Grievance Committee

Grievances or protests related to the County 4-H Policy will be handled by the 4-H Council and the Dawson County Extension Office.

- The respective superintendent has the authority to make appropriate decisions based on rules stated in the Dawson County Premium Book. Authority responsible for all livestock classes lies with the Dawson County Extension Office. Every possible attempt will be to closely match the Nebraska State Fair classes except where less than 4 competitors are ID'd in a class. Classes may be combined with like kind animals where possible. If combination is not possible, the class will be cancelled. Classes are not considered a grievance issue.
- All protests must be submitted in writing with date, time and signature. The written protest must be submitted before the conclusion of the county fair. All written protests should be submitted to a 4-H staff member and should include:
  - Names of persons involved
  - Nature of concerns
  - Situation description
  - Desired action
  - Persons to contact for further clarification
  - A description of any action or steps that have already been taken prior to submission of the protest.
  - A \$50 deposit will accompany the written protest, which will be forfeited if the protester does not attend the protest resolution meeting. The deposit will be returned upon completion of the process.
- The grievance committee appointed by the 4-H Council will review the written protest and respond in a timely manner. The recommendations will be followed and communicated both verbally and in writing to the group or individual affected.
- The protest committee appointed by the 4-H Council should consist of the department superintendent, one 4-H Council member, a designated Extension staff person (~~non-voting member~~) and a County Fair Ag Society member (preferably one of the Fair board's 4-H Council representatives)
- In cases of protest the exhibitor may be allowed to show, but results of showing will be subject to change based on the outcome of the protest process.
- Protests related to judge's integrity, decisions, placings or other evaluations will not be accepted—

## PART VII - FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE and OTHER PROGRAMS

### A. 2025 4-H Workshops

**4-H Workshops** - Provide youth (4-H'ers and non 4-H'ers) an opportunity to "explore" various 4-H projects.

The workshop program will be held throughout the year. The brochure will be distributed to area elementary schools, mailed to 4-H families, and will be available at the Dawson County Extension Office. All youth can participate whether they belong to 4-H or not.

## B. All About Clothing Construction & Fashion Show

**June 20** – Fashion Show Entry Sheets & Construction Entry cards due

**July 9** – 9:30 a.m. - Fashion Show & Clothing Construction Judging Contests, Lexington Middle School.

**July 10** – 6:30 p.m. - Public Fashion Show for parents, leaders and general public, Lexington Middle School Auditorium.

1. *Fashion Show Judging and Garment/Item Construction* Judging entries must be pre-registered. The responsibility is the 4-H'ers to see that entry sheets and cards are received in the Extension Office on Appropriate Date. **Entry sheets with narrations and cards must be received in the Extension Office by 5:00 p.m. on June 20.** Mailed entries must be received **In the Extension Office on June 20, NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!** The narration must be written and received by **June 20.** **NO EXCEPTIONS!** A schedule will then be sent to contestants. A Fashion Show Entry Sheet & Garment/Item Construction Entry Card must be filled out for every completed wearable outfit or item to be evaluated by a judge.

2. Identification Labels - Each item entered as a clothing exhibit must have a label attached to the back neckline or back waistband of the garment stating: count, Exhibitor's name, address, class (Example: Clothing Level I) in which garment entered.

3. Preparation of Exhibits - Please bring all garments on wire hangers or hangers with a swivel hook only. Wool garments and garments with narrow straps hang better on other hangers, i.e. wooden or notched plastic hangers. As you look at the garment, place the hook of the hanger on the left. Use safety pins to fasten skirt, shorts, and pants to hangers. If more than one hanger is used for an entry, fasten hangers belonging to one exhibit together with twist ties or rubber bands.

4. Exhibitors are limited to ONE EXHIBIT PER EXHIBIT NUMBER. Exhibits must conform to the class provided for in the premium list to be eligible for premium money.

5. 4-H'ers enrolled in clothing projects should continue their skill development. Once you have exhibited in a higher level, you are not eligible to exhibit in a lower level. Ex. Once you exhibit in STEAM Clothing 2, you are not eligible to exhibit in STEAM Clothing.

6. 4-H'ers who appear before a Fashion Show Judge, but do not participate in the Public Fashion Show will not receive trophies.

7. 4-H'ers may model ONLY ONE CONSTRUCTED OUTFIT in the Public Fashion Show but may model more than one outfit before the judge(s).

8. Ribbons will be provided for all contestants. In the 4-H Fashion Show, judges will choose the Dawson County State Fair Representatives. The judge will call back purple ribbon candidates to be reviewed by a panel of judges for purple or blue ribbons and for choosing State Fair representatives. 4-H'ers selected to represent Dawson County at the State Fair will receive appropriate individual trophies. If a 4-H'er has been selected by the judge for more than one purple ribbon candidate in modeling, the 4-H'er will model each garment in front of judges.

9. All clothing exhibits are entered at **Lexington Middle School** and taken to the County Fair under supervision of the Extension Educator.

10. Shopping In Style Fashion Show is for purchased garments! Participants (ages 9 and older) must be enrolled in the Shopping in Style 4-H Project to enter. Participants will be allowed to model in both the constructed fashion and the purchased garment fashion show. No Make-One/Buy-One outfits are allowed in this class. An information sheet must be included with the entry tag. 4-H exhibits not having support information will be lowered one ribbon. You must pre-register for the class. Dawson County is allotted 2 entries in the State Fair Shopping In Style Fashion Show Contest for 4-H'ers 9 and older.

**Serger For Rent** - The past late entry 4-H Clothing fees and Serger Workshop fees made it possible to purchase a serger for the purpose of educating individuals on the use. The serger will be loaned out to all DAWSON COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS AND LEADERS, as a priority, then to the public. There will be a loan-out charge. If interested, contact the Dawson County Extension Office, P.O. Box 757, Lexington, NE 68850, or phone 324-5501 for more information or a "copy of the "Serger Rental Policy" or to reserve a date.

## C. Shootings Sports

Youth and adults will need to register with Dawson County 4-H Shooting Sports Club as either a first or second club to participate. Shooting Sports events take place throughout the year at various times. There are local, state, and national events available each year. Attendance at a minimum of 4 practices per discipline will be required to participate in the County competitions. Of course, the more practices youth participate in, the better their outcomes will be. Dawson County has coaches trained in all areas of shooting sports available to 4-H youth **except for Western Heritage.**

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program stands out as an example. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, the principles of hunting and archery, and much more. The activities of the program and the support of caring adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics. Specific objectives for the program are to: teach decision making, teamwork, self-discipline, self-confidence, and problem solving; promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior; encourage an appreciation and understanding of natural resources; develop leadership abilities; build character and willingness to assume citizenship responsibility; furnish enjoyable, positive relationships with peers and adult instructors; strengthen families through participation in lifelong recreational activities; build awareness of related career opportunities.

The Shooting Sports curriculum uses the resources of the land-grant university and the time, talent, and dedication of Extension Educators and certified 4-H leaders, instructors, and trainers who instruct 4-H members in firearms safety and marksmanship. The shooting disciplines include archery, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle, shotgun, and hunting. Certified Instructors trained in BB gun, rifle, pistol, archery, muzzle loading, outdoor & hunting skills, and shotgun are available in Dawson County. Properly trained 4-H members have opportunities to test their shooting, hunting, and sportsmanship skills in county, regional, state, and national competitions.

Dawson County Shooting Sports exemplifies the youth/adult partnership and strives to enrich the lives of 4-H members. Dawson County 4-H members wishing to participate in shooting sports must register in all disciplines they will compete in. Members are encouraged to explore other disciplines but may only compete in areas that they have registered for and been adequately trained by a state certified instructor. Strict adherence to the rules and proper conduct is mandatory at all times.

Shooting Sports practices and competitions will be scheduled so that all competitors have chances available to participate. If you would like to be on the 4-H Shooting Sports Coaches committee, please contact the Dawson County Extension Office or the Shooting Sports Club Leaders to volunteer and be scheduled for a coaches training.

#### **D. All About County Fair**

July 9-20 Dawson County Fair, Fairgrounds, Lexington

1. Exhibit Classes and guidelines are given in the Dawson County Premium List. To exhibit at the Dawson Co. Fair, youth must be 5-18 years of age on Jan. 1 of the current year.
2. 4-H'ers must be enrolled in the 4-H project to be eligible to exhibit in the class listed in the fair premium book. All youth must be enrolled prior to **ANY** 4-H participation.
3. An animal or exhibit cannot be shown or exhibited in more than one county fair. Dawson County Fair livestock exhibitors are limited to participation in only one 4-H County Fair special premium program or County Fair Auction per year.
4. 4-H Static Exhibitors are limited to ONE EXHIBIT PER EXHIBIT NUMBER unless otherwise specified. Exhibits must conform to the classes provided for in the premium list to be eligible for premium money. It is the 4-H'ers responsibility to make sure that any additional information required in the fair premium book is attached to the exhibit item.
5. Unless otherwise stated or excused by the Superintendent, entries start at 9:00 a.m. and close at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, for all non-livestock 4-H static exhibits. Exhibits not received at 1:00 p.m. will be lowered one ribbon placing. All 4-H exhibits will be released 9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m Saturday, or Sunday morning 8:00 a.m until 11:00 a.m with the exception of Horse Exhibitors which will be released Saturday at 5 p.m.
6. The 4-H Exhibit Building will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. during the fair.
7. Static Exhibits Four Leaf Clover Display

The Four-Leaf Clover display was implemented in 2001 with static exhibits. The judges will be asked to select the top four within project areas/classes. A 4-H Council sub-committee determined the project areas/classes prior to county fair. These exhibits will serve as examples of the kind of exhibits younger 4-H members may want to bring to future fairs. All purple ribbon Four Leaf Clover exhibits will be on display within the exhibit building. There will be no additional awards or premiums given but they will be recognized as the top exhibits in their areas and receive a rosette recognition ribbon.

8. **Dehydrator for Rent** - The Dawson County Extension Service has purchased a food dehydrator for the purpose of educating its participants on the use of this equipment in food preservation and food safety. The dehydrator will be loaned out to all DAWSON COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS, LEADERS, AND FAMILIES as a priority, then to the public. There will be a loan-out charge. If interested, contact the Dawson County Extension Office, P.O. Box 757, Lexington, NE 68850 or phone 324-5501 for more information or a copy of the "Dehydrator Rental Policy" or to reserve a date.

#### **E. All About State Fair**

August 22 - September 1 - Nebraska State Fair 4-H Division, Grand Island

1. **State Fair Age Guidelines:** In classes where presence of the 4-H'er is required for judging purposes, such as animal exhibits, judging contests and fashion shows, a 4-H member must be 8 by January 1. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member becomes 19. For the classes where the presence of the 4-H'er is not required, the exhibitor must be 8 as of January 1.

2. 4-H'ers going to the State Fair pay for their own transportation, food, and lodging.
3. The Extension Educator will attempt to haul Family & Consumer Science and Miscellaneous static exhibits to the Nebraska State Fair provided there is room in the Extension van. The 4-H'er or parent will be responsible if there is not sufficient room for the large items. The State Fair static exhibits, except perishable food and gardening, must be in the Extension Office by August 1 for the State Fair. **Perishable foods and gardening** must be brought to the Extension Office by 11:00 a.m., **August 18<sup>th</sup>**.

## **PART VIII - AGRICULTURAL 4-H**

### **A. General 4-H Livestock Recommendations**

1. DAWSON COUNTY DEADLINES TO EXTENSION OFFICE FOR LIVESTOCK ID FORM Club Incentive:  
 Market Beef & Breeding Beef – **June 1, 2025**  
 Horse – June 1, 2025  
 Market & Breeding Sheep, Meat Goats & Meat Goat Breeding Does – **June 7, 2025**  
 Feeder Calves, Breeding Beef, Market & Breeding Swine, Dairy, -- June 1, 2025  
 Dairy Goats, Fiber Goats, Cow/Calf Class Cows, Rabbits

**ONLY USE IDENTIFICATION SHEETS FOUND ON OUR DAWSON COUNTY WEBSITE. PLEASE FILL IDENTIFICATION SHEETS COMPLETELY. PLEASE BE MORE EXPLICIT WHEN MARKING BREEDS AND DESCRIPTIONS TO HELP WHEN BREAKING DOWN CLASSES AT COUNTY FAIR TO ELIMINATE ANY CONFUSION AT SHOW TIME. ANY LIVESTOCK ID RECEIVED WITH INCOMPLETE INFORMATION, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED RECEIVED AS FAR AS THE CLUB ID INCENTIVE IS CONCERNED.**

Any I.D. turned in after the state deadline for that species will not be allowed to show at County Fair or other 4-H shows. Horses and all other livestock June 15.

1. 4-H leaders check to be sure 4-H livestock is ear tagged and identified by June 1. Any 4-H Livestock Club that has 100% of their club's livestock identified and the completed identification affidavit in the Extension Office by **June 1**, (sheep & meat goats – **June 7**) will receive \$25.00 from the Dawson County 4-H Foundation for their club treasurer. **(To be eligible for ID Incentive Award, clubs must have at least three members in livestock projects.)**

Individual members of 4-H and/or FFA can ear tag and identify up to a maximum of 10 market beef, 20 feeder calves, 20 lambs, 40 swine, and 20 meat goats.

The 4-H philosophy "s based on "learning by doing". In livestock 'projects 4-H'ers should assume the major responsibility for the care, feeding, grooming and training of their project animals. As 4-H'ers gain experience with livestock, leaders and parents should encourage and help them take on advancing levels of responsibilities.

Beginning in 2016, FFA and 4-H will have the same livestock identification requirements. In the livestock area, FFA will be interchangeable with 4-H county fair policies. The 4-H & FFA identification processes will be one in the same. Currently, potential Dawson County FFA exhibitors are virtually all 4-H members. FFA members wishing to show and not currently in 4-H will need to enroll in 4-H by June 15. This will allow them to receive mailings in regard to deadlines, county fair information, and Quality Assurance requirements. This will also allow everyone exhibiting at the county fair to be eligible for 4-H Livestock Booster premiums and 4-H trophies.

County Fair – Please list all County Fair and State Fair and AKSARBEN animals on paper ID forms available online at [dawson.unl.edu](http://dawson.unl.edu).

Market Beef – EID tags

Market & Breeding Swine – **EID Tags**

Market & Breeding Sheep, and Market Goats and Breeding Does – Scrapie tags with optional **EID Tag**

Bucket Calves – Just need a tag prior to June 15

Breeding Heifers – **EID tag** and all registered cattle will need to have a tattoo

Feeder Calves – **require EID tag**

Dairy- No EID tag or ear tag required

Cow/Calf- Ear Tag

### **Whatever livestock ID is required to show at the Nebraska State Fair will be accepted to show at the County Fair**

- 6 State Fair – All identification required to be submitted online with payment by State ID deadlines (June 15). Starting in 2023, all livestock in contention to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair will be required to submit a DNA nomination. This includes all 4-H and FFA breeding livestock, market livestock, and feeder calves. Any DNA nomination submitted through Show Stock Manager will also be eligible for exhibition at the Aksarben Stock Show. DNA nominations will be \$7.00 per animal. All animals will automatically be eligible for both breeding and market–no additional fees or double payments will be required. DNA nominations for the Nebraska State Fair are due on June 15, 2025. Any 4-H member planning to exhibit livestock at the Nebraska State Fair must complete the appropriate livestock identification requirements for each potential animal. This process nominates the animals for the 4-H livestock shows at the Nebraska State Fair and provides evidence that the animals are part of the youth's livestock projects. The process makes an individual animal eligible for entry at the Nebraska State Fair. DNA

envelopes received from the Extension Office should be returned to the Extension Office with animals nominated through <https://showstockmgr.com> for State Fair.

All Market Beef & Swine require EID tags & DNA.  
Market Lambs require Scrapie tag and DNA  
Registered Breeding Heifers require ear tattoos and DNA  
Commercial Breeding Heifers require either an ear tattoo, EID tag or both and DNA

Feeder calves require an EID tag and DNA  
Rabbits require ear tattoos  
All sheep & goats require a Scrapie tag  
FFA Feeder Calves require EID tag  
FFA Breeding Swine require EID tag  
FFA Breeding Heifers require tattoo or EID tag

**All tagging and tattoos must be completed by the nomination date. See <https://4h.unl.edu/livestock-id> for complete State fair information.**

7. AKSARBEN – for AKSARBEN ID requirements, go to [aksarbenstockshow.com](https://aksarbenstockshow.com)

**AKSARBEN only -** DNA envelopes should be ordered and paid for through AKSARBEN. **ALL** species of animals (market &/or breeding) will require an EID tag to show at AKSARBEN.

8. 4-H ear tags are a cost item. 4-H'ers will be billed through their club leader for the ear tags they use (Sheep & Goats 75¢ each; Beef \$1.00). 4-H leaders will be billed for ear tags they pick up at the office minus a refund for those returned to the office by July 1. EID tags will be \$2.50 each. **In 2024 ear tags were paid for by the Dawson County Cattlemen.**

9. Anyone showing beef, sheep, swine, dairy, meat goats, rabbits or poultry at County Fair or beyond is required to be Quality Assurance (QA) certified.

- 4-H'ers, ages 12-14 or 15-18, may pass a test which certifies them **for** the remainder of years in that age group.
- Anyone, ages 8-18, may take QA training online. Certification is achieved by completing three learning modules annually. The website is: [yqca.org](https://yqca.org).
- Clubs may also offer traditional face-to-face training, **Certified instructors required. A countywide session** is TBA.

10. The Superintendent in each livestock division will supervise putting ribbon rating stickers on the livestock exhibit stall pen cards at County Fair.

11. The 4-H livestock superintendents will check ear tags as livestock are entered at County Fair.

12. All 4-H livestock should be picked up, loaded out and removed from the buildings by 11:00 a.m., Sunday, and stalls cleaned. All panels must be put back in original position.

13. 4-H'ers should not be in the barns with livestock and exhibits after 10:00 p.m. during the Dawson County Fair.

14. Limited Camping/RV spaces are available on the fairgrounds. Reserve ahead of time with Fair Office Manager at the Fair Office (324-3600) A small fee will be charged.

15. The suggested maximum number of cattle, hogs & sheep per class is 10 head. The market show order will show lightest to heaviest weights (council policy change 11/21/22). Market Beef, Feeder Calf, Hog & Sheep classes will be based on county fair weight. The breeding show order will show youngest to oldest animals (council policy change 11/21/22).

16. Grooming at the County Fair is only by exhibitors and immediate members of an exhibitor's family (parents, brothers and/or sisters). 4-H'ers may request grooming assistance from beyond immediate family if it is needed due to special family circumstances. This request must be directed to the show superintendent or Extension Educator at entry time.

**17.** All grooming at County Fair will be "Blow and Go" which shall be defined as no adhesives, waxes, coloring agents, paints, natural or synthetic fibers, or any other items that would change the basic appearance **or conformation** of any animal. Fly sprays and coat dressing compounds are acceptable.

**All exhibitors will be required to sign the IAFE Code of Conduct for livestock exhibition.**

**All products or chemicals such as but not limited to Gold Dust, Juiced, Swells etc. which chemically alter the animal or the use of drenching or feeding an animal product not approved by the FDA as a livestock feed and which causes distress such as forced water intake, forced ingestion of vegetable oil or any other practice of sort that is deemed to be unethical or abusive.**

A 4-H Club may have more than one club group of 3, as long as, two different exhibitors and their livestock are used. **All animals in the Club Group of 3 must be market animals.**

18. Water fights at county fair could cause the withholding of premium money.

## **B. All About Showmanship**

County Fair Showmanship is open to all 4-H'ers entered in the respective animal project. Animals shown in Showmanship must be shown by that 4-H'er in the live show. Grooming only by exhibitors and immediate members of an exhibitor's family. (See #16 above).

Dark blue jeans are preferred except in horse where they are mandatory. Extremes in colors and fit are not appropriate. Belts should be worn with trousers with carriers or loops. The exhibitor shall wear a Dawson County 4-H T-shirt, or a short (no sleeveless) or long sleeve white shirt with 4-H armband or chevron for Showmanship.

Showmanship will be divided: Senior Div. - 14 years old on Jan. 1 of current year thru year of High School Graduation.  
Intermediate Div.- 12 & 13 years old as of Jan. 1 of current year.  
Junior Div. - Under 12 years old as of Jan. 1 of current year.

Show order will be Junior, Intermediate, then Senior. Members will be eligible to compete in the division in which they won first place in a previous County Fair Showmanship contest. A 4-H'er will be allowed to win a trophy more than twice in their respective division (council policy change 11/21/22).

### **Dawson County Elite Showmanship Contest**

**Contest Description:** The Elite Showmanship contest gives an opportunity for the champion senior showman from the divisions of sheep, goats, swine, feeder calves, and beef, to compete head to head for the best all-round senior showman honors at the Dawson County Fair. In this contest each contestant will be judged on their showmanship skills and knowledge with each species of animal. The judge will use a numerical scoring system to grade each individual in each species, with the ultimate winner determined by the total score overall in showing and a test. In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected based upon the judge's discretion. The animal show order will be set by the committee prior to the event.

**Who is eligible:** There is no limit on how many times a person may compete in the Dawson County Elite Showmanship Contest as a senior showman. Exhibitors must receive a purple ribbon in showmanship to potentially qualify for the Elite Showmanship contest. The top exhibitor will be asked to compete in the contest. In the event that the top qualifier in a species of animal has already been selected to compete in the Elite Showmanship Contest this year, (or if he/she declines to compete in the Elite Showmanship Contest) the next highest-ranking individual in that species who meets eligibility requirements may compete instead. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place or next qualifying representative will qualify for a wildcard spot in the competition. The wildcards for each species will be drawn at random to fill the remaining three spots. This selection process continues until a representative is chosen or until there are no purple ribbon showmen remaining. A total of eight showmen will participate in the contest.

**Animals used in the contest:** A committee will be selected to choose the species and animal to be used in the Elite Showmanship Contest based off of quality and quantity of showmanship animals. The exhibitors will draw a number to decide which animal, at random, they will show in the competition. The committee will provide show sticks, combs, whips/canes, brushes, chains etc. for showing purposes. The exhibitors will not need to bring anything to the show ring.

**Exhibitors:** 4-H exhibitors are to be dressed according to Dawson County 4-H Dress Code. If the showman is not appropriately dressed, they will have 5 minutes to change or otherwise will not show. The 4-Hers must wear their given back-tag numbers during this competition. Those exhibitors who have been asked to compete in the Elite Showmanship Contest must report the decision to either show or decline to show within two hours of the conclusion of that species show.

**Contest Details:** The contest will start at 4:00 pm on Saturday evening at the Extension Office Building where the exhibitors will take a 30-question test. Following the test, the exhibitors will report to the Stevens Arena showing for the showmanship portion of the contest at 5:00 pm. The show order and the species that will be shown during the competition will be chosen by the elite showmanship committee.

4:00 pm – Extension Office Building – take test      5:00 pm – Stevens Arena – begin Showmanship Contest

**Parade of Champions:** A Parade of Champions will be held during the Elite Showmanship contest. This will take place prior to the awards ceremony. All champion animals shown at the Dawson County Fair will be invited to participate.

**Elite Showmanship Committee:** Paul Peterson 308-529-0451, Shannon Peterson 308-529-2116, Derek McConville 308-962-4657, Taryn Vonderschmidt 308-325-0255.

### **C. Champions and Premiums**

The Dawson County 4-H Council approved a plan in 2004 to select champions and award additional premiums to 4-H'ers participating in the beef, sheep and swine areas. Additional premiums have been approved since 2007. All the money raised by the Livestock Booster Committee, is deposited in the Lexington Community Foundation, and paid out by the Dawson County Ag Society. A completed Nebraska 4-H Annual Achievement Application (4 pages maximum) must be turned in to the Extension Office by September 23, 2025 prior to 5:00 p.m. in order to receive the premiums. Animals must have at least received a blue to be eligible for division rosettes and champion & reserve trophies.

The following will have a champion and reserve selected:

Market Beef	Steer Division Bred & Fed Steer Division Heifer Division Market Beef Rate-of-Gain	Beef carcass contest, Sheep, Swine & Goat Muscle Evaluation Contests Market Sheep Breeding Sheep
Breeding Heifers	British Division Continental/Composite Division Crossbred/Commercial Division Senior Bred Heifer All Breeds	Market Swine Barrow Division Gilt Division Breeding Swine
Feeder Calf	Steer Division Market Heifer Division Breeding Heifer Division	Dairy Cattle Dairy Goat Meat Goat Meat Goat Breeding Doe
Poultry Rabbit	Dog Small Animals	

The actual amount paid to 4-H'ers will depend on the amount of money raised by the Livestock Booster Committee.

The purpose of these enhancements is to encourage projects related to large animal agriculture and to reward participants more fully for time and expense commitments. Livestock project members will be encouraged to participate in the many educational and life skill opportunities the 4-H program offers, such as 4-H livestock and meats judging, 4-H public speaking, 4-H presentations, animal science quiz bowl, Life Challenge, etc., in addition to livestock showing.

#### MAXIMUM PREMIUM LEVELS

	PURPLE	BLUE	RED	WHITE
Market Beef	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40
Breeding Heifers	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20
Cow-Calf	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20
Bucket Calf	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Feeder Calf	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Dairy Cattle	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Dairy Goat	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Market Goats	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Breeding Does	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Market Lambs	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Breeding Sheep	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Market Swine	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Breeding Swine	\$35	\$25	\$15	\$5
Showmanship	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$3
Beef Carcass	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40
Lamb Carcass	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$3
Swine Carcass	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$3

#### D. Number of Entries

Exhibitors are limited to one exhibit per exhibit number unless otherwise specified. Animal limits at County Fair are as follows:

Market Beef – 3	Meat Goats - 4
Breeding Beef – 3	Meat Goat Breeding Does - 4
Feeder Beef – 3	Fiber Goats – 4
Bucket Calf – 1	Dairy Cattle – 3
Cow/Calf – 2 pairs	Dairy Goats – 4
Market Swine – 4	Horse – No class limit
Breeding Swine – 4	Rabbit – 4
Market Lambs – 4	Poultry – 8 entries
Breeding Sheep – 4	Dog – 2 classes (not more than 1 entry in showmanship) plus 1 agility class entry

#### E. All About Beef

1. All 4-H Market Beef must be ear tagged, weighed and identified on [identification sheet for county \(see Dawson County website\)](#). DNA is required for Market Beef for both State Fair and AK-SAR-BEN. [Weigh Day is December 28, 2024,](#)

and March 1, 2025, all at Darr Feedlot. At County Fair, an EID tag is required for all large animal species. Paul and Shannon Peterson will coordinate both weigh days.

2. Breeding beef will be identified by ear tattoos for State Fair. At County Fair an EID is required and a tattoo is required for registered breed beef. Brucellosis tattoos are not acceptable identification.
3. The judge will be given the age of the Breeding Heifers in each class.
4. All 4-H Beef calves must be inspected by the State Brand Inspector at the time the 4-H'ers purchase the calf ... whether from the Sale Barn, a neighbor, or parents and a brand release issued at that time. All cattle moving to a point outside the brand inspection area must be brand inspected. Cattle moving numerous times for show purposes may qualify for an annual show permit.
5. Each 4-H/FFA member may identify 10 market beef and families are encouraged to put all siblings on one ID sheet.
6. In the Individual Market Beef Judging, the Superintendent will be responsible to see that a card is pinned on the front of 4-H'ers shirt showing the average daily gain from the winter weigh-in to the county fair weigh-in.
7. All 4-H Market Beef will be shown according to weight regardless of breed or crossbreed.
8. Inclusion in the Bred & Fed Division must be designated at County Fair check-in. Eligible calves are those produced from that 4-H'ers or their immediate family's cowherd. That 4-H family must have owned that calf's dam and maintained ownership and management of the calf through the finishing phase.
9. Market beef with the top four average daily gains will be recognized with special Rate of Gain Ribbons sponsored by the Paul Peterson Family. Champion and Reserve Rate-of-Gain trophies will given by the Livestock Boosters.

#### Other Beef Projects

**Clover Kid Bucket Calf Project** - This non-competitive project has been designed for Clover Kid 4-H'ers (5-7 years of age as of January 1). The purpose of this project is to give Clover Kid 4-H'ers experience in caring and showing a bucket calf. Between January 1 and June 1, an orphan or newborn calf less than 2 weeks old and of either sex should be selected to be fed by bucket or bottle by the 4-H'er. The calf may be dairy, beef, or a cross. 4-H'ers must own their bucket calf. No official 4-H tag or ID sheet is required. Any numbered ear tag may be used. Calves will be shown in a rope halter. The calf should be cleaned and brushed. No fitting, clipping or show sticks. 4-H'ers will receive a Clover Kid participation ribbon and \$2.00 premium. No record book or diary required. This project is listed as: clover kid other project 1: clover kid bucket calf on the enrollment screen.

**Bucket Calf Project** - This project has been designed to fit the physical size and maturity level of younger 4-H'ers (8-12 years as of January 1). Between January 1 and June 1, an orphan or newborn calf less than 2 weeks old and of either sex should be selected to be fed by bucket or bottle by the 4-H'er. The calf may be dairy, beef, or a cross. 4-H'ers may not enroll in both feeder calf and bucket calf projects in the same year.

Members will learn: - proper health and nutrition requirements of young cattle.  
 - basic beef management skills without a large monetary expense.  
 - basic recordkeeping skills.  
 - an understanding of the feeder cattle industry.

A class for project calves, preferably over 90 days of age will be held during the county fair. Calves should be entered with record book and diary by 10:30 a.m. Thursday of County Fair. Interviews with 4-H'ers and judging will follow.

ID will consist of any ear tag in the calf's ear by June 1 & recorded in the 4-H'ers record book. No official ID sheet is required. Calves must be owned by June 1. This project is bucket calf under animal science-beef on the enrollment screen.

**Cow/Calf Pair** - Cow/Calf project starts with a cow that must have been exhibited as a bucket calf, feeder calf, calf from a cow/calf pair, or breeding heifer at a past County Fair. Must have been exhibited by the same 4-H'er or family. June 1 - Identification deadline on a Dawson County Cow/Calf I.D. sheet to Extension Office. Use a separate I.D. sheet for Cow/Calf project. Cow identification will be with the same ear tag or tattoo used in her previous project. Calf requires no official 4-H ear tag but should be recorded on same sheet by its ear tag number. This project is under Other Animal Science Project 1 Cow Calf on the enrollment screen. A Beef Project Manual & Project Record (NE4H9020) will be used.

1. Both cow and calf will be shown at halter by the 4-H'er and a 4-H helper at the conclusion of the breeding beef show. Animals should be cleaned and may be clipped.
2. Cow/Calf must be owned by the 4-H'er or their family.
3. Eligible to show cow in showmanship.
4. A calf may be identified both ways (cow-calf &/or feeder calf) but must be declared at County Fair which way to show.

#### **F. All About Feeder Calves**

**June 15** - All Feeder Calves must be ear tagged with EID tags and identified on the identification sheet available on our website.

1. 4-H'ers may not enroll in both feeder calf and bucket calf projects in the same year.
2. Calves must be born between January 1 and June 1 of this year.

3. There is a limit of 20 on the number of Feeder Calves a 4-H/FFA member can identify. For County, 4-H'ers and parents must fill out and sign a 4-H Feeder Calf Identification sheet at the time of ear tagging as to birthdate, breed, sex, etc. Families are encouraged to put all siblings on one ID sheet.
4. The calves should be entered by 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Thursday, at the County Fair and will be shown at 1:30 p.m. The calves will be released immediately following the show. There will be no stalls assigned to the calves. Showmanship will be judged just before the first class. Feeder calf classes will be divided by weight.
5. All Feeder Calves should be dehorned and castrated. If not, they will be lowered one ribbon placing.
6. If the family does not own a cowherd, the 4-H'er may lease or purchase a feeder calf from a neighbor or Dawson County beef producer for county competition only. Lease agreement forms are available at the Dawson County Extension Office. The 4-H member shall prepare, train, and groom it for the show. All other shows require member or family ownership of cow and calf.
7. The top club group of five feeder calves will have their club's name engraved on a permanent plaque on display in the 4-H building. The plaque is provided by the Wade Family. Superintendent can adjust as needed.

#### **G. All About Dairy Cattle & Goats**

**June 15** – All 4-H Dairy Cattle must be identified on the dairy affidavit sheet on the Dawson County website; or for state fair, the dairy affidavit (4HF109) available on the Nebraska 4-H State Fair website. Physical identification is required for state fair and may be by a tattoo, photo, sketch, or tag.

**June 15** – All 4-H Dairy Goats must be identified on the affidavit available on the Dawson County website. Dairy Goat project is not available at the Nebraska State Fair.

All dairy animals will be entered by noon on Thursday at the County Fair. The Dairy Show will begin with Showmanship.

#### **H. All About Chickens & Rabbits**

**June 15** - All 4-H rabbits need to be recorded on a rabbit identification form available on the Dawson County 4-H website. Those rabbits possibly going to District or State shows will need to be tattooed with a permanent tattoo number and that number recorded on the I.D. form by the same deadline.

1. All chickens and rabbits will be entered at County Fair in the southwest corner of Stevens Arena. Judging will start with rabbit showmanship.
2. 4-H'ers are responsible to feed & water their animal projects until they are released at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday.

#### **I. All About Sheep, Meat Goat Production**

May 31 4-H Lamb & Goat Tagging and Weigh Day – ear tag and complete identification sheets. 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Dawson Co. Fairgrounds. Mallorie Barnes will be handling Lamb & Goat Tagging and Weigh Day.

All 4-H market & breeding sheep must be scrapie tagged and identified for county and state fair.

Registered breeding ewes must carry the tag required by their sheep breed association. Registration papers will be required at state and interstate shows. All breeding ewes to be tagged with a Scrapie tag. Online ID nomination for State Fair will carry a \$2.00 fee per animal.

A DNA sample and scrapie tag are required for market lambs to be eligible for State Fair and AKSARBEN. State Fair Ewes will need to be ID'd with a scrapie Tag. AKSARBEN ewes require an EID tag.

1. All 4-H Market Lambs will be shown according to weight, regardless of breed or crossbreed. 10 lambs or less per class. There is no minimum weight.
2. Individual 4-H/FFA members can ear tag and identify up to a maximum of 20 market lambs and 20 meat goats for county and state fair. Families are encouraged to put all siblings on one ID sheet.
3. Breeding sheep may be shown at halter.
4. All Goats for meat production must be ear tagged with a scrapie ear tag and be identified on a 4-H Meat Goat ID form at the May 31- Lamb & Goat Tagging and Weigh Day for County. A DNA sample is required to be taken for meat goats to be eligible for State Fair. DNA & an EID tag are required for Ak-Sar-Ben. Breeding Does require a scrapie tag for State Fair, but an EID tag for AKSARBEN.
  - a. Goats will be shown either with halter or neck collar by species based on production characteristics.
  - b. Meat Goat Manuals are not available from the Nebraska 4-H department, but reference materials will be supplied from other sources, if possible. Records should be kept in the Livestock Production Record.
5. All sheep and goats being exhibited need to be individually identified with the USDA official I.D. (Scrapie tag).

## J. All About Swine

June 15 - All 4-H Market Hogs must have an EID tag and be identified on the identification sheet available on the Dawson County 4-H website. State Fair requires a DNA sample, an EID Tag, and online nomination.

1. Individual 4-H/FFA members can ear tag and identify up to a maximum of 40 market hogs for county, state fair and AK-SAR-BEN. Families are encouraged to put all siblings on one ID sheet.
2. All 4-H swine will be shown according to weight, regardless of breed or crossbreed. There is no minimum or maximum weight.
3. Wash pigs in wash rack ... do not wash pigs in pens.
4. No oil, color or powder can be used on pigs ... only water before they enter the show ring.

## K. All About Horses

February 28 – 4-H Stampede entries due

March 29-30, 2025– 4-H Horse Stampede, Lincoln

June 1 – State Horse Show entries and Horse ID's due

June 22 - Boots 'N Spurs 4-H Horse Show, 7:30 a.m., Stevens Arena

July 12-16 - State 4-H Horse Show, Grand Island

July 20 - County Fair 4-H Horse Show

1. Clubs will coordinate Level I & II activities. County Advancement Level III Committee will conduct the riding portion of the advanced test. A state approved Level IV tester is required for Level IV testing.
2. Dawson County 4-H Horse Identification Rules  
All contestants in a 4-H Horse Show must be currently enrolled in the 4-H Horse Project through the County Extension Office. Their mounts must meet the following ownership and identification requirements. There will be no limit on the number of 4-H horses identified.

### Ownership Requirements:

Each project horse must be owned and/or managed according to the following requirements:

- a) A 4-H member carrying the light horse project may own the horse himself, use a family-owned horse, or use a horse owned by someone else. In any case, the member should manage the horse at least 75% of the time during the course of the year. Those using a horse owned by someone else must turn in a management log to their club leader at the end of each month.
- b) A horse may be carried as a project animal by more than one member of a family. When members of a family use the same horse as a project animal, the management of the horses must be on an equal basis.
- c) "Riding Double"...A project horse may be carried jointly by a member of a family and one non-family member with the management of the horse on an equal basis.
- d) The term "Manage" includes the following: feeding, grooming, exercising, training, stall management, and use of the horse.

### Identification Requirements

- a) Any project horse to be shown at a 4-H show must be properly identified on the 4-H Horse Identification Certificate which should be returned to the County Extension Office before June 1.
  - b) If a horse is to be shown before June 1, the identification form must be submitted to the County Extension Office before the date of the show.
  - c) Additional horse ID's or the substitution of a project horse will not be permitted after June 15. The only exception is for County Fair where a horse may be substituted for an identified project horse if the request is accompanied by a veterinarian's affidavit of unsoundness.
  - d) A member using a non-family-owned horse must comply with the above requirements and have the owner of the horse complete the Owners Affidavit.
  - e) Normally a Nebraska 4-H horse project member would not be expected to provide adequate attention nor obtain maximum project enrichment if that person tries to enroll more than 3-5 project horses in any one year. Large breeding projects along with riding projects would be an exception.
4. At the state show, a showman and/or horse may be entered in a class only once. For instance, a 4-H'er or horse can only enter 1 Horsemanship (Equitation) Class regardless of whether it is a pony or horse, English or Western, Level II or Advanced, boy or girl, junior or senior. This is true even though the horse may be jointly identified by two 4-H'ers.  
**Exceptions:** An exhibitor may enter 2-year-old Snaffle Bit Western Pleasure in addition to another Pleasure Class as long as the 2-year-old is not ridden in any other class. An exhibitor may enter the 3-year-old Western Pleasure in addition to another Pleasure Class but the 3-year-old ridden cannot be entered in another Pleasure Class. Also, Level III contestants may enter both Level II classes and corresponding Level III Pleasure/Hunter Under Saddle/Ranch

Horse Pleasure and Horsemanship/Equitation classes, as long as a different horse is used in the Level II and Level III corresponding classes.

At the county level the same applies except that 4-H'ers and horses may enter both the Western and corresponding English events. In addition, a horse may be shown at the county's summer shows in more than one age group per event if being shared with a Junior I (8 or 9-year-old) family member.

5. Performance classes are based on age of exhibitors: Senior Div. - 14 years old or older January 1 of current year  
Intermediate Div.- 12 & 13 years old as of Jan. 1 of current year  
Junior Div. - Under 12 years old as of January 1 of current year

### **COUNTY DAWSON COUNTY 4H HORSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

1. **County Dawson County 4-H Horse Advisory Committee** shall be formed by October 1<sup>st</sup> before the current fair year. They shall include 1 extension office personnel, 1 leader from each club, 1 parent from each club and 2 members from the intermediate or senior age group. If no volunteers sign up for committee, the head of the committee shall be appointed by the Extension office and the new head of committee will seek members.
  - a. This group shall be known as the **Dawson County 4-H Horse Show Advisory Committee**.
  - b. The committee shall be run as a separate entity from current or future horse clubs.
  - c. Committee shall send recommendations to the 4-H Council on dates to have the Dawson County Horse Show. Dates must not conflict with the State Horse Show dates.
  - d. Donations for additional prizes, buckles and other awards will be the responsibility of the committee, or a representative appointed by the committee. Donations will be deposited into Dawson County 4-H Foundation under Dawson County 4-H County Horse Show. Designated only for the current fair and future high point prizes.
  - e. **AWARDS:** Committee will pick out and order buckles, tack, plaques, and other awards designated. The committee will have the awards ordered on or before March 31 of current year of fair.
  - f. Committee shall send recommendations of judge(s) needed along with appointing show superintendent, announcers, helpers, and cattle (if needed) to the Extension Office.
  - g. Judges need to be found and contracted to judge no later than March 1st.
  - h. Trail judges will not have to be UNL certified 4-H horse judging list to qualify as a trail judge.
  - i. If no trail judge can be found the committee will inform the horse show judge, they are required to judge trail class also.
  - j. The committee shall review new classes, rules and changes and present them to the 4-H Council by their November meeting. Future changes will take place the following year.
  - k. The committee shall advise the Extension Office of a 4-H leader who is willing to design, set up, and tear down the trail pattern. Following the rules in the current Nebraska Horse Show and Judge Guide.
  - l. Working Ranch Horse – the committee or a representative appointed by the committee will annually ask all members via email or text to find out how many riders want to participate in this class. The committee will reach out to area ranchers/cattlemen and line up the cattle needed for the class.
2. **Dawson County Extension and Ag Society Responsibilities**
  - a. Ag Society will make sure the arena microphone working properly and the arena is prepared, equipment/operator on hand to work the arena as needed between classes. Any horse show equipment needed for the show that has been previously removed needs to be back in place and the grounds need to be ready and safe for the participants.
  - b. The Extension Office will provide the computer, signup sheets, contestant numbers, and patterns laid out prior to the start of the show. Along with current Nebraska Horse Show and Judge Guides and 4-H arm bands to sell.

### **DAWSON COUNTY HORSE SHOW:**

1. **MEMBERSHIP** – members must be enrolled in the county 4-H horse program before allowed to ride in any Dawson County 4-H Horse Club. Member must be enrolled by June 15th. Any late enrollment will not be allowed to participate in riding classes, club organization or compete at the Dawson County Fair 4-H Horse Show.
2. Show superintendent will have final say during the county horse show on problems that arise according to the rules set up by the 4-H Council, Dawson County Extension Office, Dawson County 4-H Horse Advisory Committee, or the current Nebraska Horse Show and Judge Guide.
3. The judge(s) will not be harassed by any parent, competitor, or spectator.
4. **PLACING CLASSES**
  - a. The judge, superintendent, and record keeper need to be informed to place each class as 1<sup>st</sup> purple/2<sup>nd</sup> purple/3<sup>rd</sup> purple and top blue.
  - b. If no purple ribbon winners judge needs to place top 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> blue ribbon winners
  - c. Red/White ribbon winners cannot be considered for class champion.
  - d. If a class has 4 or less competitors, the judge can combine the class with the next age group but will judge age group separately and awarded ribbons/points according to their age group.

5. ALL English class riders can compete at the same time but will be judged and awarded ribbons/points according to their age group.
6. Hunter Hack – Level 2 required to jump obstacles. Placings do not count toward high point or super horse.
7. English Classes – All ages, see current 4-H horse show & judging guide general tack and attire guide. Judged according to age group.
8. Showmanship, Ranch, Trail, Reining, Barrels, and Poles Classes - see current 4-H horse show & judging guide general tack and attire guide. Judges required to follow current 4-H horse show & judging guide. Judged according to age group.
9. Walk Trot class riders are eligible to participate in barrels and poles as allowed in the current Nebraska Horse Show and Judge Guide.
10. Working Ranch Horse – All ages. Judged according to age group.

#### **HORSES:**

1. Horses must be registered by downloading and completing a 4-H Horse Identification Certification (F29777) 1 sheet each for 2 animals.
  - a. If exhibiting in the 2 & 3-year-old Western Pleasure classes at the State 4-H Horse Show, download and complete the 2 & 3-year-old Western Pleasure Affidavit for each animal.
  - b. Submit completed forms to local Extension Offices by June 1st.
  - c. ALL Horse IDs submitted past the deadline that animal will not be able to compete at county horse show or the State Horse show.
  - d. Extension office personnel will either be present or appoint someone to verify horses according to the 4-H Horse Identification Certification paperwork they have on file. Prior to the beginning of the Dawson County 4-H Horse Show.

#### **SHARING HORSES:**

1. Family members are allowed to share horses if registered as shared.
2. Horses cannot be shared in the same classes even if members are in a different age group. Example: Senior in western pleasure – another family member not allowed to show the horse in western pleasure.
3. Horses shown in Western Pleasure are NOT eligible to show in Ranch Pleasure.

#### **HIGH-POINT RIDERS:**

1. ALL classes count towards high point and premium payment, except: Hunter hack, 2 & 3-year-old snaffle bit, and reining.
2. All ribbon placings will acquire points that will be tallied at the end of the show.
3. The scoring of ribbon points is 1<sup>st</sup> Purple (6 pts); 2<sup>nd</sup> Purple (5 pts); all other Purples (4 pts); 1<sup>st</sup> Blue (3 pts); other Blues (2 pts); Red (1 pt); White (0 pts).
4. High point champion and reserve champion shall be awarded in each age group.
5. Showmanship class is mandatory to compete for High-Point.
6. In case of a tie in points Showmanship score will be the first tie breaker. Horsemanship shall be the second tie breaker.
7. Premiums will be paid by the Dawson Co. Ag Society for all classes except: Hunter hack, 2 & 3-year-old snaffle bit, and reining.
8. The Premium payment for ribbons is Purple (\$4.50); Blue (\$4.50); Red (\$3.00); White (\$2.00).

#### **SUPER HORSE (HIGH-POINT HORSE):**

1. ALL registered 4-H members can sign up one (1) horse for Super Horse at time of class registration.
2. Horses will be marked with latex based livestock paint with a number.
3. 4-H members will have their back numbers marked with the same number corresponding to their Super Horse candidate.
4. Points do not count if siblings/family members compete on the horse.
5. Classes not counting for high point horse are, 2 & 3 yr. old snaffle bit, and second chance horsemanship and reining class.
6. All ribbon placings will acquire points that will be tallied at the end of the show.

7. The scoring of ribbon points is 1st Purple (6 pts); 2nd Purple (5 pts); all other Purples (4 pts); 1st Blue (3 pts); other Blues (2 pts); Red (1 pt); White (0 pts).
8. In case of a tie in points Horsemanship score will be the first tie breaker. Trail shall be the second tie breaker.

### **CLASS AWARDS:**

1. Ribbons will be awarded for ALL classes and placings.
2. SHOWMANSHIP
  - a. Appropriate 4-H trophies and buckles are provided to the top showman in all three age divisions by donor sponsors to the Dawson County 4-H Foundation.
3. SECOND CHANCE HORSEMANSHIP/REINING CLASS.
  - a. 1 winner will be picked in Horsemanship and 1 winner in Reining classes.
  - b. Winners will be awarded with a one-time use engraved plaque or another prize designated and supplied by the Dawson County 4-H Horse Advisory Committee.
4. HIGH POINT 4-H RIDERS
  - a. High point buckle style/design will be designated and supplied by the Dawson County 4-H Horse Advisory Committee.
  - b. Buckles will be inscribed with Dawson County 4-H, year of show, age group and noted as a high point winner. Donors name on back (if possible)
  - c. Award top high point winner in each age group with a belt buckle
  - d. Award second place high point winner in each age group with a lesser cost prize than the high point winner.
5. HIGH POINT HORSE
  - a. All prizes will be selected by the Dawson County 4-H Horse Advisory Committee.
  - b. Award top high point horse with tack prize with county, year, and super horse embroidered on it. (if possible)
  - c. Award second place high point horse with similar but less expensive prize than first place.

Dawson County Horse Show Classes and Order of Classes are found in the Dawson County Fair Premium.

### **L. Dates & Deadlines for State Fair**

**TBA** - State Fair 4-H livestock entries due. (4-H'ers to enter directly to State Fair website)

**August 22 - September 1** - Nebraska State Fair

#### Age requirements for livestock exhibitors

State Fair - must be 10 years of age and cannot have passed 19th birthday by Jan. 1 of the current year.

1. 4-H'ers going to State Fair pay their own transportation, food and lodging.
2. All Breeding Beef must be ear tattooed for State Fair whether they are registered or crossbred and be registered in the exhibitor's name.

#### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

... for Parents of Youngsters Showing Livestock

1. Thou shalt not feed, train and care for the animal for thou are trying to teach the child responsibility.
2. Thou shalt forgive a child for making a mistake in the show ring for thou hath made mistakes too.
3. Thou shalt not get angry when thy child forgets items in the show box, for one day thou may forget the showbox.
4. Thou shalt help the show management for they are doing a job that thou would not want to do.
5. Thou shalt see that thy child is on time for all show ring activities for thou should not want to wait on another.
6. Thou shalt be sure that thy child has the animals entered and the registration papers in order by the designated time.
7. Thou shalt teach the child that winning a blue ribbon is a desirable goal but making friends along the way is a more worthy goal.
8. Thou shalt not complain about the judge, for it is his opinion that has been sought.
9. Thou shalt not forget that livestock projects are teaching projects, not necessarily money-making projects.
10. Thou shalt remember that the livestock project is a family project that shall be enjoyed and supported by the entire family.

## **PART IX - DAWSON COUNTY 4-H JUDGING**

### **A. 4-H Horse Judging - Bowl - Hippology**

**March 29-30** - 4-H Horse Stampede, Lincoln (entries due February 28)

Horse Bowl & Hippology - Like horse judging, the 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl and Hippology contests require enrollment in the horse project but can be enjoyed without horse ownership.

Hippology is for 4-H'ers 10 years of age and older as of January 1 of the current year. There is a Junior and Senior Division at the State 4-H Horse Expo. It deals with practical horse knowledge and basic horse judging. The contest allows for two junior and four senior members per team to work together on the following areas:

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) General horse knowledge.           | 5) Ropes and knots.        |
| 2) Anatomy, faulty conformation, etc. | 6) Tack and equipment I.D. |
| 3) Breeds, colors, etc.               | 7) Basic horse judging.    |

#### 4) Feeds I.D. and feeding situations.

Horse Bowl - Hippology serves as a natural introduction to Horse Bowl. Horse Bowl is designed for 4-H'ers 10 years of age and over as of January 1 of the current year. More in-depth horse knowledge is demonstrated in a quiz bowl setting where teams of four compete. Speedy recall of facts and horse knowledge is the basis for scoring. **The Horse Committee coordinated by parents and will conduct a Horse Judging and Hippology Contest in 2025.**

Anyone interested in Hippology or Horse Bowl should contact the Extension Office for details. Hippology and Horse Bowl workouts will be held together.

#### **B. 4-H Meats Judging & Identification Schedule - Curtis Rickertsen, coach**

All 4-H'ers, regardless of the projects they carry, are eligible and encouraged to participate in the 4-H Meats program. The 4-H Meats program teaches 4-H'ers to become wise purchasers and consumers of meat, and ties meat back to live beef, sheep and swine production. The nutritional value of meat is stressed. An excellent opportunity for **all 4-H'ers**.

2025 Meats Schedule			
Tuesday, February 11, 2025	7:00	Extension Office	Beef
Monday, February 24, 2025	7:00	Extension Office	Pork & Variety
Tuesday, March 11, 2025	7:00	Extension Office	Lamb & Pork & Variety
Monday, March 24, 2025	7:00	Extension Office	Beef & Pork & Lamb & Quiz
Tuesday, April 1, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID and Quiz
Monday, April 7, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID and Quiz
Tuesday, April 15, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID and Quiz
Monday, April 21, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID and Quiz
Tuesday, April 29, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID and Quiz
Monday, May 5, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID and Quiz
Tuesday, May 13, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	County Contest
Monday, May 19, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID, Quiz, and Judging
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID, Quiz, and Judging
Tuesday, June 3, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID, Quiz, and Judging
Monday, June 9, 2025	7:00	Plum Creek Market	Retail ID, Quiz, and Judging

**Thursday, June 17-18 – PASE (Premier Animal Science Event), Lincoln**

**State Contest**

#### **C. 4-H Livestock and other Judging**

4-H Livestock Judging program will be set up after January 1. All 4-H'ers are welcome and encouraged to participate, regardless of the 4-H project carried. There will be a workout for beef, sheep, and swine. **Other judging will be setup up at a later date. Shannon Peterson will coordinate the Livestock Judging.**

**March 1 - Bull Judging, time TBA., Darr Bull Test Lot, Cozad, same day as Beef Weigh Day**

**May TBA – NCTA Livestock Judging Camp & Contest, Curtis**

**May 20 – County Deadline for PASE (Premier Animal Science Event) & PCE (Premier Communication Contest) information**

**June TBA– County Livestock Judging Contest in Stevens Arena**

**Tuesday, June 17 - PASE (Premier Animal Science Event), Lincoln**

#### **D. 4-H Life Challenge Judging Contest**

The Life Challenge event helps 4-H'ers learn life skills, as well as challenging youth with knowledge they already know. The Life Challenge Contest is a hands-on event that offers chances for participation in team problem solving and oral presentations.

**May 28 - Life Challenge Judging Contest, 9:00 a.m., Dawson County Extension Office**

**E. 4-H Horticulture Identification & Judging Contest**

**May 28** - Horticulture Identification & Judging Contest in conjunction with the Life Challenge Judging Contest.

There will be 3 sections: 1) judging, 2) identification and 3) a quiz over project materials.

Junior/Intermediate/Senior Division - 10:00 a.m. - Dawson County Extension Office

**F. 4-H Photography Judging Contest**

**May 28** - Photography Judging Contest in conjunction with the Life Challenge Judging Contest and Horticulture Identification & Judging Contest - 11:00 a.m. There will be placing classes and a quiz over project materials.

**G. 4-H Weed & Grass Identification Contest**

**May 28**- Weed & Grass Identification Contest is in conjunction with the Life Challenge Judging Contest, Horticulture Identification & Judging Contests, and Photography Judging Contest. 4-H'ers will identify the plant specimens by common name by matching the contest specimen with a specimen listing.

Junior/Intermediate/Senior Division – 11:00 a.m. – Dawson County Extension Office

**H. 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl – Shannon Peterson, Coach**

Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest is a team event where 4-H'ers test their knowledge of beef, sheep, swine, and teams compete by providing oral answers to questions.

Work Out Dates – Mid April at Cozad Library

May 20 – County Deadline for PASE & PCE information

Wednesday, June 17-18 – PASE (Premier Animal Science Event) Lincoln

**I. 4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon – Taryn Vonderschmidt, Coach**

Livestock Skill-a-thon Contests provides an educational experience for youth to learn a variety of topics related to the production and management of beef, cattle, meat goats, sheep and swine.

Work Out Dates TBA – Mid April at Cozad Library

May 20 – County Deadline for PASE & PCE information

Wednesday, June 17-18 – PASE (Premier Animal Science Event) Lincoln

**J. 4-H Identification and Judging - Horticulture, Weeds and Grass, Insects and Trees, Coach, Sarah Fanning and Talon Mues**

Workout Dates – TBA

Contests are at the Nebraska State Fair on Saturday, August 23, 2025

**PART X - OTHER ITEMS****A. Dawson County 4-H Foundation**

The purpose of the Dawson County 4-H Foundation is to promote the objects and purposes of 4-H organization, with particular emphasis upon providing educational services and developing leadership. The Dawson County 4-H Foundation solicits and receives contributions on behalf of 4-H in order to enhance the 4-H Program. The Dawson County 4-H Foundation uses all contributions to benefit the educational efforts of the 4-H Program.

2025 Dawson County 4-H Foundation Members

Commissioner District 1	Jeni Negley, Gothenburg	Commissioner District 4	Gail Kramer, Cozad
	Joe Keiser, Gothenburg		Mitchell Ziebell, Cozad
Commissioner District 2	Kate Schaaf, Lexington	Commissioner District 5	Ramon Prado, Lexington
	Seth McFarland, Lexington		Barb Hinrichs, Lexington
Commissioner District 3	Brian Edeal, Overton		
	Laci Elfgren, Overton		

**B. Dawson County 4-H Heritage Tour**

The 4-H Heritage Tour is designed to study historical places, to see government in action, to better appreciate our American Heritage and to become better acquainted with other people. The 4-H Heritage Tour policy is as follows: 4-H members must have been in 4-H for the last three years and enrolled in at least two 4-H projects, one being the 4-H Heritage Project the year of the tour. Recent 4-H alumni who were in 4-H the last three years in which they were eligible are encouraged to participate and will be required to complete the 4-H Heritage Project. The oldest 45 4-H'ers who meet the deadlines and requirements will participate. Heritage Tours are scheduled every four years if 45 4-H members apply. Applications for the 4-H Heritage Tour is March 15 of the year prior to the next tour. Future tours may be immediately after all county schools are completed for summer vacation. The next tour will be coordinated by 4-H Extension Educator. TBA by Dawson County Heritage Tour

**C. Scholarships**

- Harold & Virginia Stevens Endowment Fund 4-H Scholarship (available to high school seniors, first year Masters or Doctorate students) due January 15

- State 4-H Scholarship Form (available to high school seniors) due January 5
  - Donna & Daryl Keiser 4-H Scholarship (available to Dawson County 4-H members or former Dawson County 4-H members) due March 1
  - Martha & Don Romeo Scholarship (available to high school seniors) due November 30
  - Larry Peterson Memorial Scholarship (college) – Must have graduated from a High School located in Dawson County. Must have completed 60 hours of college credit. Must be enrolled in CASNR for the upcoming semester.
- 

#### **D. Use of the Dawson County Fairgrounds**

The Dawson County Fairground's buildings can be used by Dawson County 4-H Clubs at no charge, as long as 4-H members leave the buildings and grounds in at least as good a condition as they were found. All scheduling should be done with the Ag Society Office and all of their rules for use followed. If for some reason, you cancel a previously scheduled building, be sure to call Fairgrounds Office Manager 324-3600 at once so they can rent the building to someone else.

Clubs wishing to have a meeting in the Extension Office Meeting room must schedule such a meeting with the Dawson County Extension Office.

If your 4-H club uses the 4-H Building or 4-H Exhibit Building, all chairs and tables must be put away on carts, floors swept, trash put in dumpster west of 4-H Building, thermostats adjusted, lights turned off, and doors locked. If using Steven's Arena, all trash must be picked up in the arena, on and under the bleachers, put in dumpsters outside of the south doors. If you use the little red barn, be sure to sweep the floor and empty the trash. Be sure to lower the big doors slowly, shut off the lights and lock the doors.

The horse stalls may be used by 4-H members during annual 4-H Horse Shows and Dawson County Fair at no charge as long as the stalls and tie areas are thoroughly cleaned (horse manure, bedding, etc.) by no later than one (1) hour after the conclusion of the last class. Each show superintendent shall be responsible for the cleaning. The Fair Board will remove the right of free usage at any time that the cleaning provisions are not met. The Fair Manager will designate the stalls to be used prior to the start of the event, and no other stalls may be opened. Absolutely no stalls are to be used during regular 4-H meetings or practices. No horses are to be on the grounds except during the hours of practice. If the horse stalls are not used and cleaned as stated above, free use will be discontinued.

Be sure to police the areas that you have used outside for trash, etc. and put in containers.

The driveway between the beef/horse barn and the sheep/swine barn is a fire and emergency lane and is a non-parking area. For safety, liability and appearance reasons, the area south of Steven's Arena should not be used for parking, trucks or horse trailers. Vehicles are not permitted to park in the beef/horse barn. This area is reserved for livestock. There is an outdoor arena north of the livestock barns for you to warm up and practice your horses. The area south of Steven's Arena is not a practice area but a traffic area for the public coming to watch you perform at the show.

This policy is a restatement of the long-standing policy of free use of the fairgrounds and fairgrounds buildings. We want to make the best better so let's cooperate in keeping the buildings and grounds in better condition than we found them.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska- Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture. For special accommodation, please call 308-324-5501.