



4-H Newsletter

4-H Updates

Office Closed

The Extension Office will be closed Monday, February 17 in observance of President's Day.

Nebraska 4-H Month

February is Nebraska 4-H Month! Please be sure to watch the Facebook page for celebrations and opportunities.

Leader Training

Attention all Leaders, we are hosting a Leader's Training via Zoom on Wednesday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. It is recommended that ALL LEADERS ATTEND the training. Topics we will be covering include positive youth development, enrollment updates, volunteer screening, livestock updates, and more. The zoom link was sent to all leaders via email. The Zoom session will be recorded for later viewing if needed.

If you cannot attend, please let Brenda or Erin know via email, or by calling the Extension Office at (402) 352-3821.

Gearing up in 2025!

The new year is here, which means it is time to reorganize 4-H Clubs. Please let us know if you need help with getting started or reorganizing your 4-H Clubs. Be sure to invite new members and families in your community to join your 4-H group.

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Colfax County Office

(402) 352-3821

Upcoming Events

February 17: Extension Office closed
in observance of President's Day

February 12: Leader Training on
Zoom-7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



New Families

If you have new families in your 4-H club, please submit their name, email, and mailing address to the Extension Office so that we can add their name to our mailing lists, and help them navigate the enrollment process.

4-H Council Representatives

A reminder to ALL 4-H clubs! If you need to nominate new 4-H Council representatives, please nominate them before the March meeting. If a club doesn't have 4-H Council representatives, it has no voice on how to allocate the resources of the 4-H Council to support your club's success in Colfax County. Remember that all youth representatives have 1-year terms, and that adult representatives have 2-year terms, but both youth and adults can serve multiple terms. We have quite a few adult representatives whose terms are up, so be sure to have them in place by the March 10th 4-H Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office.

4-H Enrollment

Youth and volunteers can now enroll in 4-H for the new year! When re-enrolling, please **DO NOT** create a new account/enrollment. Use your email address and password from last year to log in and start your re-enrollment for this year. The link to 4-HOnline is: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>



If you need assistance with completing your registration, please contact Brenda by calling the Extension Office at (402) 352-3821, or email bdolezal2@unl.edu. You can also find some helpful resources to help you through this process by visiting the following link: <https://extension.unl.edu/enrollment-resources-4honline/>

When reviewing your information, please be sure your email address is one that your family regularly checks. This email address is where all your 4-H, newsletter, county fair and state fair information is sent. Please also remember when enrolling in 4HOnline to use **Colfax County**, not the county you live in.

The Enrollment fee is \$10.00 for both Clover Kids and Traditional Age 4-H members. This enrollment fee will be able to be paid online with a credit/debit card or paid in the office with cash or a check. **Please enroll as soon as possible.**

A simplified project list has been implemented for the new enrollment year. This is to make 4-H enrollment easier for families, and to promote consistency statewide. Please remember that this is for project enrollment, NOT fair entries. A project is centered around a topic of interest for

member(s), and should include a series of learning experiences. When you enroll in 4-H Online please be sure to complete your project enrollment. The project enrollment information assists us with providing members with information they will need to complete their 4-H projects.



4-H Diamond Clover Recognition

Colfax County will recognize 4-H'ers through the Diamond Clover program. 4-H'ers will be recognized for their accomplishments and life skill development. This is available to all 4-H'ers, regardless of age. There are six levels of recognition. A short form needs to be completed when you sign up for 4-H this year and the rest of the form will be completed in September. For more information, contact the Extension Office. Club leaders have also received information on the 4-H Diamond Clover Recognition Program.

Livestock Progress Shows Mailing List

All livestock exhibitors are encouraged to attend a Progress Show prior to the County Fair. This serves as good practice for both the exhibitor and their animals.

Contact the Extension Office if you want to be on the mailing list for 4-H Livestock Progress Shows. The information about progress shows will be sent only to those who notify us that they want the information.

We do not carry names over from last year's list. So, if you want to receive progress show information, give us a call.

Local Events & Opportunities

Communication Event

The Communication Event will be held on Sunday, April 6 at 4:00 p.m. in the West Education Center at Central Community College, Columbus, Nebraska. Information on the specific communication events is in the flier attached to the end of the newsletter. This event is a great way for 4-Hers to start or expand on their public speaking or presentation skills.

For more information and how to register online utilizing 4-H Online for any of the events, please refer to the attached flier, or contact Brenda by calling the Colfax County Extension Office at (402) 352-3821, or email bdolezal2@unl.edu. Registration is due by **March 26, 2025**.





Beef Weigh Day

The Colfax County 4-H and FFA Market Beef Weigh Day will be held Saturday, February 8th from 1-3pm at the Midland Store Veterinary Clinic, Schuyler location. Anyone interested in showing market beef at the Colfax County Fair that wants to participate in the rate of gain contest will need to have their animals weighed and tagged. In addition, any animals exhibited at the Nebraska State Fair can have EID tags inserted and hair samples pulled for DNA testing. Call the Extension office at 402-352-3821 if you have any questions.

Livestock Judging Contest

The 2025 Colfax County Livestock Judging Contest will be held on May 29th at the fairgrounds in Leigh. Registration begins at 8:30am.



Special Agronomy Project

The Nebraska Extension Special Agronomy Project gives 4-H members an opportunity to experience a crop that is grown, was grown or has the potential to be grown in Nebraska. Youth participate by receiving seed and resources to grow the crop, research traits of the crop and determine the viability of that crop in the part of the state they live. The project allows 4-H members interested in agronomy to grow something fun, new and different. This year we have the honor to grow a crop that can be marketed in multiple ways.

In the fifth year of the special agronomy project, youth will explore sunflowers! There are two types of sunflower production in Nebraska: those that are grown for oil production, and those that are grown for human food consumption. Sunflowers are grown throughout the state of Nebraska, with the greatest concentration in western Nebraska. The variety we will be growing is a high oleic hybrid that ensures multiple market options. To be eligible to enter an exhibit at both the Colfax County and/or State Fair in the agronomy project area.

More information can be found at go.unl.edu/specialagronomy.

Enroll for the 2025 Special Agronomy Project through 4-H Online by enrolling in the Agronomy project ***AND contacting the Colfax County Extension by calling 402 352 3821, or emailing bdolezal2@unl.edu by Monday, February 24th to order seeds.***

Free Chicks!

The Messing family will once again offer free chicks to 4-H'ers interested in showing them at the Colfax County Fair. Each 4-H'er that signs up will

receive 5 broiler chicks, with the expectation that they show them at the Colfax County Fair. Please call the Colfax County Extension Office at 402-352-3821 to reserve your free chicks by **April 1st**. *Please note, youth must be enrolled in 4-H prior to the April 1st deadline in order to receive the free chicks.*

Chicks will be available for pick up in early June at the Messing house.

Camp Scholarships

4-H Youth are encouraged to apply for a camp scholarship sponsored by the 4-H Council. The 4-H Council would like for you to complete the application for a 4-H Camp Scholarship that is included at the end of this newsletter and return it to the Extension Office. The 4-H Council will provide 2/3 of the camp cost. Some options are:

- Nebraska 4-H Summer Camps
- Livestock Judging Camp, Lincoln
- Big Red Summer Academic Camps

4-H'ers who did not receive a camp scholarship in 2024 will have first priority, but all 4-H'ers are encouraged to apply. To see full camp descriptions and to register online go to: <https://4h.unl.edu/camps-summer>
Deadline for the camp scholarships is June 1, 2025.

YQCA Training

State 4-H rules require that all 4-H members ages 8-18, who are enrolled in the following livestock projects (beef, sheep, dairy, swine, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, and rabbits) be certified in Youth Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).

Blake Wert in Platte County will be offering Face to Face YQCA training & certification. Blake will be conducting one training session in Colfax County on May 27th at the Extension office. These are the following training dates that will be offered in Platte County as well.

Friday March 14th @ 10am

Monday April 14th @ 6:30pm

Monday April 28th @ 6:30pm

Monday May 12th @ 6:30pm

Friday May 23rd @ 3pm

Please note, there is a pre-test and enrollment that must be completed prior to the Face-to-Face trainings. Here is the link to enroll:

<https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php> Please refer any questions on these



clinics to Blake Wert by emailing: bwert3@unl.edu.

If you cannot attend any of these Face-to-Face trainings, you can still complete the YQCA requirements online. The YQCA training completion deadline is June 2, 2025. Face to Face trainings are \$3 per person and online training is \$12. More YQCA information will be included in the March newsletter.

Statewide Events & Opportunities



Innovative Youth Corn Challenge

The Innovative Youth Corn Challenge is a contest open to 4-H members (age 8 and older as of January 1st) and FFA members. This competition is designed to guide participants through a comprehensive exploration of all facets of corn production, including aspects related to agricultural careers with corn production. Teams of two or more youth participants will be tasked with implementing a production practice differing from the norm, with the goal of assessing its impact on increasing corn yield. Prizes for the top three teams:

- First place: \$1000
- Second place: \$500
- Third Place: \$250
- Special Awards of \$200 each for “Extra Mile” and “Ag Literacy”

Registration deadline is April 1st.

For detailed information visit: <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/corn-challenge/> or contact Brandy VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu

Big Red Academic Camps

Are you ready to take the next step towards a successful future? Consider being a part of an immersive and empowering college and career ready experience through Big Red Camps 2025! Embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery, skill-building, and preparation for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. These experiential learning opportunities allow you to work alongside UNL faculty and staff as well as business and industry professionals. Incoming freshmen through seniors during the 2025-26 school year are welcome. Whether you're a first-time camper or a returning veteran, there is a guaranteed unforgettable experience filled with learning and fun!

Taking place June 8-13 2025, with registration coming soon. For more information visit: <https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/big-red-summer-academic-camps/> or contact: BigRedCamps@unl.edu.

UNL Chick Days

UNL Chick Days is an educational event for small and backyard poultry producers and youth featuring speakers and contests. It will take place on



March 22nd, from 9am-2pm at the Department of Animal Science.
Registration Due: March 15th 2025
Please see the attached Information Flyer and Registration Form.

Data Driven: A Statistics & Data Science Field Day

Registration is now open for “Data Driven – A Statistics & Science Field Day”. This opportunity is for high school youth with a passion for math, statistics and beyond. Participants will compete in 5 unique games focused on probability, data science, and a bit of luck for a chance to win amazing prizes, including \$500 CASNR for the top-scoring team members. Registration is free for the first 20 teams, courtesy of CASNR sponsorship.

When: 10am-4pm, March 22nd

Where: Dinsdale Family Learning Commons, UNL East Campus

For more details visit: <https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/stem-program/data-driven/> or contact Kimberly Stanke at kstanke2@unl.edu.

Awards

4-H Council Award Winners

Congratulations to the following 4-H Award Winners:

- Friend of 4-H – Laura Eisenmann
- Outstanding 4-H Alumni – Al Sucha
- Outstanding 4-H Member – Josh Eisenmann

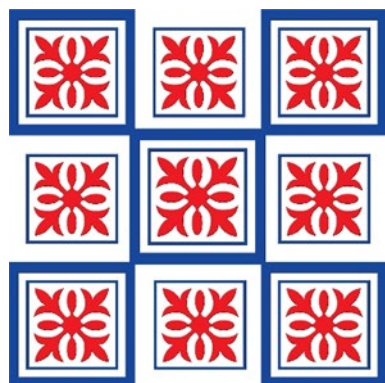
The awards are sponsored by the Colfax County 4-H Council and the Nebraska 4-H Foundation.

Quilt of Valor

This year’s Quilt of Valor was presented to Kenny Blum. Kenny joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 1968 and served for several years before he re-enlisted in 1990 and was deployed to Saudi Arabia, where he drove Army supply trucks and was responsible for setting up Army camps.

In addition to being an MP (Military Police), he was a 95th Division Instructor in Fort Des Moines Army Base in Des Moines, Iowa. He served for a total of 26.5 years. Kenny has been a member of the Honor Guard, VFW, and lifetime member of the Schuyler Legion.

Thank you for your service, Kenny!



Thank you to our 4-H Leaders!

We would like to thank our leaders for their years of service. We couldn't have a 4-H program without you.

Upcoming Events:

February 8: Colfax Beef Weigh Day 1-3pm

February 12: 4-H Leader Training

March 12: 4-H Council Meeting at the Extension Office 7:00 p.m.

March 26: Online registration due for the Communication Event on 4-HOnline

April 1: Free chick orders due to the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m.

April 6: Communication Event at the West Education Center at Central Community College, Columbus, Nebraska-4:00 p.m.

April 29: Colfax County Agricultural Literacy Day at the Fairgrounds in Leigh

May 27: Face-to-Face YQCA Training at Colfax County Extension office

<u>1 year</u> Jacob Vogel	<u>8 years</u> Laura Eisenmann
<u>2 years</u> Brianna Burenheide Kari Kracl	<u>9 years</u> Chris Bourek Tina Bourek Brent Brabec
<u>3 years</u> Jill Bailey Jamie Hastreiter Amanda Jedlicka Greg Shonka Staci Shonka Cori Vavricek	<u>10 years</u> Rachel Malena
<u>5 years</u> Brandy Balzer Sara Prinz	<u>11 years</u> Phillip Wendt
<u>6 years</u> Al Sucha Darla Erwin	<u>23 years</u> Jill Ruskamp
	<u>30 years</u> Renaë Vogel

Thank
You



Pictured here is Kenny Blum, 2025 Quilt of Valor recipient with the Colfax County 4-H members that participated in the Quilt of Valor sewing and presentation. From left to right: Brielle Wolfe, Alyse Wolfe, Lindley Bailey, Bailey Prinz, Justin Eisenmann, and Kara Eisenmann.



Laura Eisenmann (*Friend of 4-H award winner*)

Al Sucha (*Outstanding 4-H Alumni award winner*)

Josh Eisenmann (*Outstanding 4-H Member award winner*)

2025 Communication Event

Contests: Speech, Impromptu Speech, PSA, Presentation, Video

Event Date & Time: Sunday, April 6, 2025; 4:00 p.m.

Location: West Education Center, Room 205, Central Community College, Columbus

Registration: Online pre-registration required. The deadline to register is March 26, 2025.

Speech Contest

Age Categories, Time Limits, Topics:

1. Clover Kid (ages 5 - 7 as of January 1st of current year)
3 minutes or less. Talk about anything! You may read a poem or a favorite story.
2. Junior (ages 8 - 10 on January 1st of current year)
2 - 3 minutes. Must be an original speech relating to 4-H.
3. Intermediate (ages 11 - 13 as of January 1st of current year)
3 - 5 minutes. Must be an original speech relating to 4-H.
4. Senior (ages 14 - 18 as of January 1st of current year)
5 - 8 minutes. Must be an original speech relating to 4-H.

Contest Guidelines:

- All speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.
- Many speakers in the Public Speaking Contest have given speeches in other contests. This is fine; however, previous speeches may not be used verbatim for the 4-H contest. It is okay to use the same ideas from a speech previously delivered in competition, but it must be 4-H related. Enough changes should be made to make that speech new to the speaker and the audience. 4-H public speakers may not use an old speech written by a sibling, another 4-H member, or anyone else.
- Acknowledge the source of information used in the speech. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference but should not be quoted directly unless you tell the audience your source.
- **Organization:** Introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Use of visual aids and props is not allowed. Notes may be used for Clover Kid & Novice categories.
- **Delivery:** Eye contact, timing, gestures, and posture.
- **Voice:** Clear tones, correct volume, and good pronunciation.
- Dress appropriately. Do not wear costumes or special effect clothing. 4-H Chevron required.
- No team speeches are allowed.
- 4-H'ers who are 8 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for the Premier Communication Event (State Contest). Youth must be selected at the County Contest to compete in the Premier Communication Event.



Impromptu Speech Contest

Age Categories, Time Limits, Topics:

1. Junior (ages 8 - 10 as of January 1st of current year)
1 1/2 minutes.
2. Intermediate (ages 11 - 13 as of January 1st of current year)
3 minutes.
- 3 Senior (ages 14 - 18 as of January 1st of current year)
5 minutes.

Contest Guidelines:

- Competition will give youth the opportunity to write and present a speech around a 4-H related topic that they select during the competition.
- Given 15 minutes to develop and prepare for their presentation. Participants will then deliver the speech to judges and audience members.
- Example topic: My Day in 4-H
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries allowed.
- 4-H'ers who are 8 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for the Premier Communication Event (State Contest).

Contest Resources:

The following resources can be found online at:

[PCE Impromptu Speech Scoresheet.pdf](#)

Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest

Age Categories, Time Limits, Topics:

1. Junior (ages 8 - 10 as of January 1st of current year)
2. Intermediate (ages 11 - 13 as of January 1st of current year)
3. Senior (ages 14 - 18 as of January 1st of current year)

Contest Guidelines:

- All PSA's are 60 seconds in length.
- Youth will prepare a PSA around the theme: **"Ready through 4-H....and beyond!"**
- All radio PSA's must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska at any time of the year.
- All 4-H PSA's must include the following tag line within the last ten seconds of the PSA: **"Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu."** The tag line is included in the 60 second time limit.
- Sound effects and public domain music may be used. Copyrighted material may not be used.
- All PSA's must be the original work of the presenter. Contestants may not use PSA's written and provided by the state or national staff.
- No team PSA's are allowed.
- Scoring is based on the content of the material and delivery.
- Appearance and gestures are not judged.



- **County Contest Only:** Participants may read their PSA at the contest or submit it electronically in a .wav or .mp3 audio format on a flash/jump drive to be played at the contest.
- If selected to go onto the Premier Communication Event (State Contest), radio PSA's will be submitted electronically as a .wav or .mp3 audio format. No CDs accepted.

Contest Resources:

The following resources can be found on-line at:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>

- Guide to Making Great Speeches/How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement

Presentation Contest

Categories:

Show 'n Tell (County Only)

- **Description:** 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.
- **Age:** Clover Kids Only
- **Time Limit:** up to 5 minutes individual, no team presentation available for this class

Illustrated Presentation (Premier Communication Event Eligible)

- **Description:** An Illustrated Presentation involves one or two 4-H'ers giving a live presentation with a formal talk where the presenter(s) will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. All presentation topics should be related to what the 4-H youth is learning through 4-H educational experiences. Participants will be penalized if their presentation exceeds the time limit.
- **Individual or Team:** An Illustrated Presentation may be given by one (1) individual or a team of two (2) individuals. If team members are not in the same age division, they must compete in the age division of the oldest team member.
 - Individual - Junior Division (ages 8 - 10 as of January 1st of current year); Length: 3-5 minutes
 - Individual - Intermediate Division (ages 11 - 13 as of January 1st of current year); Length: 6-8 minutes
 - Individual - Senior Division (ages 14 - 18 as of January 1st of current year); Length 6-8 minutes
 - Team - Junior Division: 5-7 minutes
 - Team - Intermediate and Senior Divisions: 8-10 minutes

Contest Guidelines:

- Presentations must 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).
- Each participant is required to wear the 4-H chevron, 4-H emblem, or 4-H shirt.
- All categories require the presence of the contestant(s).
- The judge views the entire presentation and engages in a question-and-answer session following the presentation.
- 4-H'ers who are 8 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for the Premier Communication Event (State Contest). Youth must be selected at the County Contest to compete at Premier Communication Event.

Contest Resources:

The following resources can be found under Contest Resources on-line at:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>

- The Versatile 4-H Presentation
- The Four Ps of Planning a Presentation
- Getting Ready to Give a 4-H Presentation
- Presentation Visuals
- Using PowerPoint in 4-H Presentation
- Evaluating a 4-H Presentation
- How to Prepare a Multimedia Presentation

Video Communication Contest

Video Communication (Premier Communication Event Eligible)

- **Description:** The video communication contest allows youth to create a multi-media video around a theme related to 4-H. Judges will be evaluating both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production.
- **Age:** 8 – 18 as of January 1st of current year
- **Time Limit:** 60-90 seconds individual only

Contest Guidelines:

- Youth may use a phone, laptop, or tablet to create a multi-media 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.
- For county contest only, the 4-H'er must be present to play video. If selected to go onto Premier Communication Event (State Contest), the video will be electronically submitted as MP4 files.

Contest Resources:

The following resources can be found under County Resources on-line at:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>

- Video Communication Judging Criteria

2025 Communication Event On-Line Registration

Deadline March 26, 2025

Log into your 4HOnline family account at <https://v2.4honline.com/>

Click “View” button next to 4-H'er who is registering for contest.

Click on “Events” button stated down the lefthand side.

Click on blue “Register for a new event” button.

Select 2025 Communication Event (Butler, Colfax, Platte) – Click Next

Select Category and Click on “Start Registration”



2025 UNL Chick Days—March 22

9:00-2:00 pm

Dept. of Animal Sci., Univ.
Nebraska

An educational event for small and back-yard poultry producers and youth featuring speakers on the following topics:

8:30 Registration Dept. of Animal Science, University of Nebraska, Student Commons, 3940 Fair St.

Lincoln, NE., 68583-0908

9:00 Presentations - Room B101

Talk 1: Waterfowl Management—Cole Meador, Assistant Extension Educator, Saunders County, Mead, Nebraska

Talk 2: Essentials of Composting for Small Flock Poultry Waste Management- Ashley Bigge, M.S. Penn State Extension, Extension Educator, Penn State University,

Break

Talk 3: “Breeding for Show and Showing in Open Classes” - Brett Kreifels, Extension Educator, Leader, Douglas Sarpy Counties, Omaha, Nebraska

Talk 4: “Preparing and Delivering Knock-Out Reasons” - Sarah Vos, UNL Horse Judging Team coach and UNL Graduate Student Animal Science

Noon—Lunch Break, Make your own omelet - B101

1:00 Photo and Art Contest Winners Announcement—B101

1:15 Quiz Bowl Contest—B101 (Awards to Immediately follow)

Contests: Egg Art – Adult & Youth

2025 UNL Chick Days—March 22

Photography and Egg Art Contests

Photography - bring a 8 X 10 photo of your favorite bird/and or bird scene etc.
Youth or Adult (Circle one)

(Put name, Youth or Adult and email and phone contact info on the back upper right hand corner of photo)

Awards in the following Categories: Youth or Adult, Division Prizes: 1st—\$30;
2nd—\$20; 3rd—\$10

Egg Art: Bring single decorated egg of any size for display in a labeled egg carton.
Youth or Adult (Circle one)

Division Prizes: 1st—\$30; 2nd—\$20; 3rd—\$10;

***Please note that all Photography and Egg Art entries must be displayed by 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 22, 2025 in the UNL Commons display area. Entries may be mailed in ahead of time .



WHAT'S THE BUZZ? 2025



4-H CAMP 101

July 13-15, Burwell

4-H CAMP

June 22-26, Chadron
July 17-21, Burwell

**LEADERS
IN TRAINING**

May 28-31, Burwell

**APPLY FOR A
SCHOLARSHIP TODAY**
GO.UNL.EDU/CAMPSCHOLARSHIP



4h.unl.edu/camp



4hcampst@unl.edu

