



Here’s what to look out for in the upcoming months!

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Office Update:
The Extension office will be closed December 24-January 1 for Holiday Break. Happy Holidays!

Happy holiday season to everyone! This may be a hectic time of year, but hopefully everyone has an opportunity to enjoy some family time and reflect on an amazing year. The holidays also bring some well-deserved breaks from work (unless you have livestock), so please take note of office closing dates and times and plan accordingly. Also, now that winter weather has suddenly and officially arrived, be sure to follow the Nebraska Extension in Colfax County page on Facebook for any weather-related office updates or closures. Thank you for everything you have done to make 2025 a successful year for Colfax County 4-H, and have a safe and festive holiday season!



Upcoming Events:
December 1: 4-H Achievement Award & Diamond Clover Applications Due
December 10: Holiday fundraiser delivery date
December 15: Nebraska 4-H Fed Steer Challenge applications due
December 24-January 1: Extension office closed, Holiday Break
January 2: Quilt of Valor Workday @ Schuyler Community Church, 4-H Award Nominations & Quilt of Valor Nominations due to Extension Office by 4:30pm



Quilt of Valor Sewing Workday

The sewing workday for the 2026 Quilt of Valor has been scheduled for Friday, **January 2nd** from 9am-2pm at Schuyler Community Church social hall (formerly the Presbyterian Church) located at the southeast corner of 802 A Street in Schuyler.

4-H members will participate in cutting, piecing, and sewing a quilt top for a Quilt of Valor that will be presented to a local veteran at the 4-H Volunteer Banquet in January 2026. 4-H members with any or no level of sewing experience are invited and highly encouraged to participate.

Since the Extension Office will be closed for the holidays, please register by sending a text or calling Jeanne Scheunemann at 402-689-4230. We ask that you register if you plan to attend so we have appropriate supplies for the workday. The Extension Office will provide sewing machines and supplies, but 4-H members may bring their own working sewing machine and pins if possible. You will also need to bring a sack lunch for you that day. This is a great opportunity to learn some new sewing skills and recognize a local veteran!



Senior Livestock Judging Team Update

Congratulations to the four Colfax County 4-H members for competing at the National 4-H Livestock Judging competition at NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky on November 18th! Our marking team consisted of Bela Jedlicka, Jace Prinz, Addison Vavricek, and Allison Vavricek. They have been working hard and putting in a lot of practice time to prepare, and we are proud to have them represent Colfax County at a national contest. Official results will be shared once they become available.



Thank You & Farewell

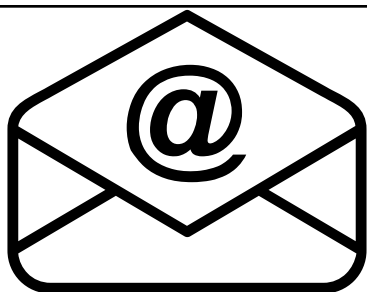
On a personal note, this will be my last newsletter as I have made the decision to accept another job offer and leave UNL Extension as of December 1st. It has been an honor to get to know all of you in the 4-H community and serve as a member of the Colfax team. While saying farewell is difficult, I am excited to return to my horticultural roots in my new role at Country Lane Gardens and will continue to collaborate with Colfax County 4-H in the future. After December 1st I can be reached at erin427@gmail.com. Thanks for the great memories! - Erin



4-H Council Representatives & Club Info

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. All youth representatives have 1-year terms, and adult representatives have 2-year terms, but both youth and adults can serve multiple terms. Independent members can also be on the 4-H Council. If you are an independent member and either you and/or your parents are interested in being on the 4-H council, please contact the Extension office.

New 4-H Council representatives should be in place by the March 9th 4-H Council meeting held at the Clarkson Library at 7pm. It will also soon be time to re-organize clubs for the new year. If you need assistance with getting started or re-organizing, please contact the Extension office. Please be sure to invite new members or families from your community to your 4-H club!



UNL Email Downtime

Due to upcoming technology updates from UNL, Extension staff will NOT be able to access their work email from **January 2-January 5** after returning from Holiday break. Any Quilt of Valor or 4-H Award nominations submitted via email should be sent before January 2nd to ensure they are received on time. Please plan accordingly or contact the office at 402-352-3821 with any questions.



4-H Enrollment

4-HOnline is now back open to enroll or re-enroll in Colfax County 4-H for 2026! Please enroll at: v2.4honline.com If you are re-enrolling, please do not create a new account. Use your email address and password from last year to log in and start your re-enrollment. Additional instructions are available online: <https://4h.unl.edu/enrollment/> Enroll right away to get started on projects and stay informed about upcoming opportunities. Everyone that completes enrollment by **April 1st** and meets the Holiday fundraiser participation requirements will be eligible for prizes! Please contact the Extension office if you have any questions or issues.



Holiday Fundraiser

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who bought and sold popcorn and nuts with the 4-H Council 2025 Holiday fundraiser! The delivery date is scheduled for **December 10th**, please watch your email for more information on pickup times and locations. Your participation helps the 4-H Council fund opportunities for 4-H members throughout the year!



Fed Steer Challenge

Applications are now open for the Fed Steer Challenge 2026! The Nebraska 4-H Fed Steer Challenge is an opportunity for youth interested in learning more about the cattle industry and is designed to cultivate the next generation of leaders in the Nebraska cattle industry. Please apply by **December 15th**, 2025 for the 2026 program year. For more information or to submit an application please visit:

<https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/livestock-program/fed-steer-challenge/>



2025 Winter Paper Clover Promotion

Since 2010, Tractor Supply has partnered with 4-H to prepare youth for work and life. The success of the Paper Clover campaign has raised more than \$24 million to impact local youth with the technical skills and life skills that prepare them for whatever comes their way. The 2025 Winter Paper Clover campaign is taking place **November 28-December 14, 2025**. Once hundred percent of funds raised through the bi-annual paper clover campaign directly affects 4-H youth. 90% of donations stay in the state where the funds were raised, the remaining 10% supports the overall mission and growth of 4-H nationally.

Learn more at:
<https://www.tractorsupply.com/ts/c/cms/4h>



Farrowed & Owned Swine Cohort

Registration for the 2026 Nebraska 4-H Farrowed & Owned Swine Cohort is now open until **January 30, 2026**. This opportunity is for youth interested in learning more about the swine industry and is designed to enhance the educational value of the traditional 4-H swine project by focusing on swine production, accurate record keeping, and industry knowledge and engagement by the 4-H member.

Visit
<https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/livestock-program/farrowed-owned/> to get started.

See attached flyer for additional details.



4-H Assistant Position

The 4-H Extension Assistant position serving Colfax County is now open and posted through UNL. KateLynn will be reviewing candidates once the application window closes. Please contact the office if you'd like more information or know of anyone that would be a good fit! Here is the posting:

<https://employment.unl.edu/postings/98423>



Awards & Recognition

Quilt of Valor 2026 Award Nominations

A Quilt of Valor is a quilt made using patriotic material that is donated to a Veteran member of the Armed Forces after its completion. The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a national organization made of volunteer quilters from across the USA, including Nebraska 4-H'ers.

The Quilt created by Colfax County 4-H members will be presented to a deserving native of Colfax County. Please use the attached nomination form to nominate a local veteran for this honor.

Nominations are due **January 2, 2026**. Please contact the office with any questions.

4-H Award Nominations

Please see the attached Awards Nomination Form at the end of the newsletter. This form gives you the opportunity to give special recognition to people or groups involved in 4-H. The form can be used to nominate three different categories: Friend of 4-H, Outstanding 4-H Member, and Outstanding 4-H Alumni. Awards will be presented at the 4-H Volunteer Banquet in January.

Please use a new form for each nomination. Nominations are due **January 2, 2026**. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension office.



4-H Diamond Clover Application

The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program encourages 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 goal is to provide 4-H members with a rich and diverse learning experience.

The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program is designed for all ages of 4-H members. The program consists of six levels that require a 4-H member to plan and report a broad range of age-appropriate accomplishments.

To learn more, contact the office at 402-352-3821. In order to receive your recognition for 2025, please submit the completed report by **December 1st**.



4-H Achievement Application

The Achievement Application will be used at the state level to select winners for 4-H Congress, 4-H Conference, scholarships, and other leadership opportunities that arise statewide, as well as county awards. You can access the Achievement Application at:

<https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/awards-recognition/achievement-application/>

Two new revised applications are now available.

Junior: ages 8-14 (county only)

Senior: ages 15-18 (state eligible)

In order to receive your recognition for 2025, please send your completed application to the Extension office by **December 1st**.



Important Dates:

December 1: 4-H Achievement Award & Diamond Clover applications due to Extension office by 4:30pm, Youth art applications due

December 10: Holiday fundraiser delivery date

December 15: Nebraska 4-H Fed Steer Challenge applications due

December 24-January 1: Extension office closed, Holiday break

January 2: 4-H Award Nominations and Quilt of Valor Nominations due to Extension office by 4:30pm, 2026 Quilt of Valor work day @ Schuyler Community Church

January 6: 4-H Council meeting, 7pm @ Howells Library

January 7: 4-H Livestock Superintendent Meeting, 7pm @ Leigh Fairgrounds

January 19: Extension office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 25: 4-H Volunteer Banquet, St. Benedict Center

January 30: Nebraska 4-H Farrowed & Owned Swine Cohort registration deadline

Thank you for reading!

466 ROAD 10 SCHUYLER, NE 68661	402-352-3821
https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/colfax/	Nebraska Extension in Colfax County on Facebook

2025

AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

(Plaques donated by Nebraska 4-H Foundation)

Nominee _____

Submitted by: _____ Phone # _____

(Check One - One form per nomination)

- ☐ Friend of 4-H. An individual, group or business who has given outstanding service over the years to 4-H in Colfax County. Winners may receive only once.
- ☐ Outstanding 4-H Member. This is awarded to a current 4-H member enrolled in Colfax County. The recipient shall have demonstrated leadership and growth through the 4-H program, including projects and activities. Winner may receive only once.
- ☐ Outstanding 4-H Alumni. This is awarded to a former 4-H member who as an adult, has contributed to the 4-H program. Winner may receive only once.

EXPLANATION OF WHY NOMINEE SHOULD RECEIVE THIS AWARD:

Please return by January 2, 2026 to: Nebraska Extension - Colfax County
PO Box 389
Schuyler, NE 68661



Quilt of Valor
Recipient Nomination Form



The Quilts of Valor Foundation was started in 2003. Since then, Veterans and returning soldiers have been wrapped in Quilts of Valor as they return home or are honored on special occasions for their service.

Colfax County 4-H members have created a Quilt of Valor throughout the year. The quilt was exhibited at the Colfax County Fair and the Nebraska State Fair. At the request of the Colfax County 4-H Council, the Quilt of Valor has been brought back to Colfax County to be given to a local **Colfax County Veteran**.

Please fill out the following nomination form to nominate a Veteran, Serviceman, or Servicewoman you feel is deserving of this honor. Nomination forms are due: January 2, 2026.

Thank you!

Name of Person Nominated: _____

Has the recipient ever received a Quilt of Valor? ____ Yes ____ No

Branch of Service: _____

Place and Time of Deployment: _____

Please share why you feel your candidate should be selected:

Your Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____

Please return completed form to: Nebraska Extension Colfax County
P.O. Box 389
Schuyler, NE 68661



Farrowed and Owned Swine Cohort

A Farrowed and Owned Breeding and Market Swine division for youth interested in learning more about the swine industry is available for youth statewide in 2026! The Nebraska 4-H Farrowed and Owned Swine Cohort is designed to enhance the traditional 4-H swine project and cultivate the next generation of leaders in the swine industry by providing opportunities focusing on swine production as a goal of the 4-H member's project, along with accurate and complete record-keeping, industry knowledge, and engagement by the 4-H member. In order to participate, youth must be 4-H age 8-18 as of January 1, 2026, complete YQCA, farrowed their project animal(s) and participate in monthly virtual educational meetings.

Youth participating in the Farrowed and Owned Cohort will:

- Network with 4-H members across the state who are also participating in the cohort experience.
- Participate in learning opportunities hosted by Extension Swine Specialist Benny Mote about biosecurity, meat science, economics of raising swine and more.
- The cohort will meet virtually the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. CT, the months of February, March, April, May and June.
- Gain knowledge related to their project and the swine industry as a whole.
- Maintain records related to swine management and basic care.
- Exhibit their Farrowed and Owned project animals at a 2026 Nebraska county fair or the Nebraska State Fair. All cohort members will participate in an interview at the 2026 Nebraska State Fair. Exhibiting your animal at the Nebraska State Fair is not a requirement for the record book and interview portion of the cohort. Join the first session in February for more details!
- **NEW for 2026:** virtual tour of the UNL swine teaching facility will be a featured topic!

Register [here](#) by January 30, 2026!

****Optional special virtual education session on farrowing will be held on January 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. CT**

Register by January 2nd to participate!**

After the registration deadline, youth will receive more detailed information via email. For questions, contact Nebraska Extension Swine Specialist Benny Mote at bmote8@unl.edu or 402-310-9878.