



4-H NEWSLETTER



Here's what to look out for in the upcoming month!

Colfax County Office
(402) 352-3821

TJ Prochaska
4-H Extension Educator
tprochaska2@unl.edu

Erin Trotter
4-H Extension Assistant
etrotter4@unl.edu

Brenda Dolezal
Office Manager
bdolezal2@unl.edu

Office Update:
The Extension office will be closed on Friday, April 25 in observance of Arbor Day.

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

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 them to our mailing list and help them navigate the enrollment process.

If your club needs to nominate new 4-H Council representatives, please nominate them before the March meeting. All youth representatives have 1 year terms, and adult representatives have 2 year terms, but both youth and adults can serve multiple terms.

We still have some club packets in the office that need to be picked up. If you missed the volunteer training Zoom on February 12th, please email Erin or Brenda for the link.

Upcoming Events:
March 10th: 4-H Council Meeting, 7pm @ Extension Office
March 15th: Volunteer Screening & Orientation Deadline
March 20th: Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Award Nominations Due
March 26th: Communication Event Registration Deadline
April 1st: Free chick orders due to the Extension office



4-H Enrollment

Youth and volunteers can now enroll in 4-H for the new year. When re-enrolling, do not create a new account. 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 at this link:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/colfax/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. Be sure to select Colfax County.

The enrollment fee is \$10 for both Clover Kids and traditional age 4-H members, which can be paid online with a credit/debit card or in the office with cash or a check. Please enroll as soon as possible.



Projects

A simplified project list is available for the new enrollment year. 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-HOnline be sure to complete your project enrollment. This information assists us with providing members with information they will need to complete their 4-H projects.



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 request it. We do not carry names over from last year's list, so if you want to receive progress show information you must request it every year.

Local Events & Opportunities



Free Chicks

The Messing family will once again offer free chicks to 4-H members interested in showing them at the Colfax County fair. Each member that signs up will receive 5 broiler chicks with the expectation that they show them at the fair. Call the Extension office at (402) 352-3821 to reserve your chicks by **April 1st**. Chicks will be available for pick up in early June at the Messing house.



Diamond Clover Recognition

Colfax County 4-H'ers can be recognized for their accomplishments and life skill development through the Diamond Clover program. This is available to all 4-H'ers, regardless of age. A short form needs to be completed at enrollment and the rest will be completed in September. Club leaders have received 4-H Diamond Clover Recognition Program information. Contact the office for more information.



Communication Event

The Communication Event will be held on Sunday, April 6th at 4pm in the West Education Center at Central Community College in Columbus. Specific event information is in the flier attached at 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. Registration is due by **March 26th, 2025**.



Livestock Judging Contest

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



Camp Scholarships

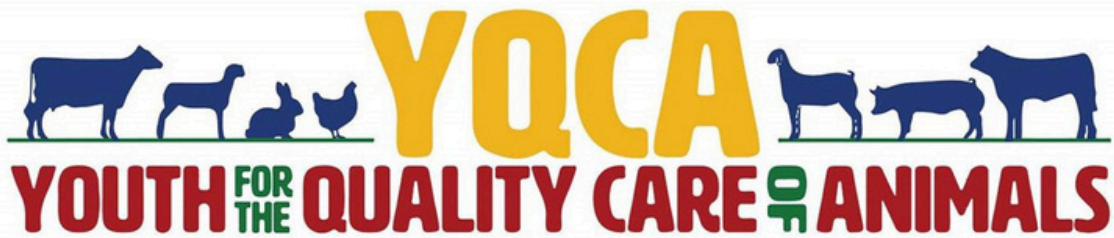
4-H youth are encouraged to apply for a camp scholarship sponsored by the 4-H Council. The 4-H Council will provide 2/3 of the camp cost and would like for you to complete the application for a 4-H Camp Scholarship that is included at the end of the newsletter and return it to the Extension Office. Some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

<https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/nebraska-4-h-summer-camp/>

*Deadline for camp scholarships is **June 2, 2025**.*



YQCA Training

State 4-H rules require that all 4-H members age 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 6:30pm at the Extension Office.

There is a pre-test and enrollment that must be completed prior to the Face to Face trainings. Here is the link to enroll: yqcaprogram.org Please refer any questions to Blake Wert at bwert3@unl.edu.

Face to Face YQCA Training Dates:

Tuesday, May 27th, 6:30pm @ Colfax Extension Office

Platte County Training Dates:

Friday, March 14th @ 10am

Monday April 14th @ 6:30pm

Monday April 28th @ 6:30pm

Monday May 12th @ 6:30pm

Friday May 23rd @ 3pm

If you cannot attend any of the Face to Face trainings, you can still complete the YQCA requirements online. Face to Face trainings are \$3 per person and online training is \$12. The YQCA training completion deadline is **June 2, 2025**.



Nebraska 4-H Statewide Volunteer Recognition

Nebraska 4-H is now accepting nominations for a new awards program to recognize the outstanding contributions of 4-H volunteers across the state.

The Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Recognition Awards honors adult and youth volunteers who have provided meaningful contributions to Nebraska 4-H. Nominations can be submitted by any 4-H member, family, supporter, or Extension staff member. Nominations are due by **March 20th, 2025**. Winners will be announced virtually in April and a special awards presentation will take place at the 2025 Nebraska State Fair.

<https://4h.unl.edu/resources/volunteers/recognition/>



2025 State Fair Livestock Nominations

Show Stock Manager is open for livestock nominations for the 2025 Nebraska State Fair. All livestock in contention to exhibit at the State Fair will be required to complete an online nomination with payment through Show Stock Manager and submit a DNA collector envelope with a hair sample.

All 4-H and FFA livestock nominations are due on **June 15, 2025**.

<https://showstockmgr.com/>

Contact the Extension Office at (402) 352- 3821 with questions.



NAYI

The 54th Annual Nebraska Annual Youth Institute (NAYI) will be held July 7-11 2025 on UNL's East Campus. It is a weeklong experience for students across Nebraska to learn more about career opportunities within agriculture. Current high school juniors and seniors interested in attending can apply at: <https://nda.nebraska.gov/nayi/> The deadline to apply is **April 15th, 2025**. Contact Christin Kamm at christin.kamm@nebraska.gov with questions.



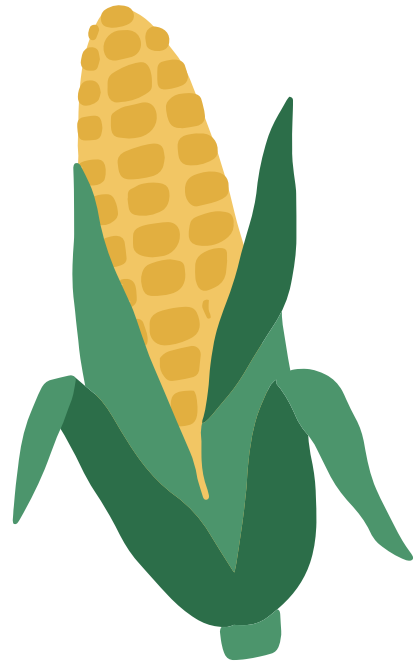
UNL Chick Days

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 is due **March 15th 2025**. Information Flyer and Registration Form is attached.



Big Red Academic Camps

Big Red Camps are residential career exploration camps held at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln on June 8-13, 2025. During the week long camps, participants will work alongside UNL faculty and industry professionals to explore their topics of interest. Big Red Academic Camps are open to youth going into grades 9-12 during the 2025-2026 school year. Space is limited, so reserve a spot right away. <https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/big-red-summer-academic-camps/>



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. This competition is designed to guide participants through a comprehensive exploration of all facets of corn production and careers. 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, 2025**. <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/corn-challenge/> or contact Brandy VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu



Data Driven - Statistics Field Day

Data Driven - A Statistics and Science Field Day is an opportunity for high school youth with a passion for math, statistics, and beyond. Participants will compete for a chance to win amazing prizes including a \$500 CASNR scholarship for the top scoring team members. 10am-4pm March 22nd at the Dinsdale Family Learning Commons, UNL East Campus. <https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/stem-program/data-driven/>



Important Dates:

March 10: 4-H Council Meeting at Extension Office, 7pm

March 15: 4-H Volunteer Screening & Orientation Deadline, UNL Chick Days Registration Deadline

March 20: Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Award Nomination Deadline

March 22: UNL Chick Days and Data Driven Events

March 26: Communication Event Registration Deadline

April 1: Free broiler chick deadline, Innovative Youth Corn Challenge registration deadline

April 6: Communication Event at CCC West Education Center, 4pm

April 15: NAYI registration deadline

April 25: Extension Office closed in observance of Arbor Day

April 29: Colfax County Agriculture Literacy Day, Leigh Fairgrounds (for participating 3rd grade classes)

May 13: 4-H Council Meeting at Howells Library, 7pm

May 26: Extension Office closed in observance of Memorial Day

May 27: YQCA Training at Extension Office, 6:30pm

May 29: Colfax County Livestock Judging Contest, Leigh Fairgrounds

June 2: Camp Scholarship Deadline, YQCA Training Deadline

June 15: State Fair Livestock nominations deadline

Thank you for reading!

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https://extension.unl.edu/ statewide/colfax/	Nebraska Extension in Colfax County on Facebook

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 .



