

Dawson County 4-H

February 2025 Newsletter

Nebraska Extension-Dawson County 1002 Plum Creek Parkway Lexington, NE (308)-324-5501 dawson.unl.edu

Calendar

February is 4-H Month

- 11- Meats Judging Workouts begin
- 13- Cookie Workshop, 10:00 a.m.
- 13- Speech Contest Workshop/Practice, 3:30-5
- 14 - Speech Contest Entry Cards Due by 5:00 p.m.
- 21- Coffee with Extension, Cozad
- 17- President's Day, Office closed
- 18-19- Public Speaking Contest Office Hours, 3-5 p.m.
- 24-PSA recordings and text due by 4:00 p.m.
- 24- Horse Stampede entries online

March

- 1- Beef Weigh Day and Bull Judging- Darr South Lot
- 1- Keiser Scholarship Applications due to Office
- 3-Public Speaking Contest (Public Speaking and PSA)
- 8- UNL Horse Judging School, Lincoln
- 15- Volunteer Screening Deadline
- 17- Slime Workshop (can be part of a fair project!)
- 21- Coffee with Extension, Gothenburg
- 28- Illustrated Presentation and Video Communication Contest entry due
- 29-30, 4-H Horse Stampede, Lincoln

Hello 4-H Families!

The year is in full swing and I hope everyone is adjusting to the new year. We have lots of events going on in the 4-H world and we hope you are starting to meet with your clubs. If you are not a part of a club, we encourage you to join a local club and get involved, or start your own! Please reach out to the Extension Office for more information. We encourage you all to try to invite 1 new family this year to join 4-H.

We just had our String Art Workshop and youth were able to complete a project to submit to fair and hang in their house! We look forward to having more workshops at the Extension Office each month and be on the lookout soon for information on our June workshop series.

4-H Camp will be June 3-5. Registration will open in March.

We have completely revamped camp and are looking forward to a super fun few days at Camp Comeca! 4-H camp is for youth ages 8-13. Remember, if you're youth turned in an achievement application this fall, they receive a \$75 scholarship for camp!

Please be watching your email and facebook for announcements on upcoming events, judging opportunities, workshops, and announcements. This is our best way to connect with you all.

4-H Photography Contest

To celebrate National 4-H Month, we want to celebrate you and your accomplishments! 3 photos will be selected to win (one for junior, intermediate, and senior entries). Photos must have been taken within the past year and by the 4-H Member submitting the photo. Photo must be a high-resolution photo taken with a high-quality camera/phone.

Entries must be submitted as a .jpeg file. Entries may be emailed to dlans2@unl.edu

With each photo, please include:

- Name and age of person who took the photo
- What the photo is about
- IDs for anyone in the photo



Submit photos by February 21st. Winners will be notified, and all photos will be displayed in the Dawson County Extension Office through the spring and summer.

IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE FAIR AND AKSARBEN

All livestock in contention to exhibit at the 2025 Nebraska State Fair and/or the Aksarben Stock Show will be required to submit a DNA nomination. All 4-H BREEDING livestock, market livestock and FEEDER CALVES are REQUIRED to submit a DNA sample/envelope to be eligible to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair. DNA nominations for the Nebraska State Fair are due in the Extension Office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13.

Requiring DNA on breeding stock allows exhibitors to have a better record of the animals they are nominating, sustain the integrity of exhibitors, and ensure ownership of the livestock. As for the administrative side, this will help streamline the record keeping and validation process to assist our families as they are nominating their animal projects.

Any DNA nomination submitted through Show Stock Manager will also be eligible for exhibition at the Aksarben Stock Show. DNA nominations will remain at \$7.00 per animal. Animals will automatically be eligible for both breeding and market.

2025 4-H HORSE STAMPEDE

The 2025 4-H Horse Stampede will be held March 29-30 in Lincoln. The 4-H Horse Stampede will include the 4-H Horse Bowl, Horse Public Speaking Contest, Horse Demonstration Contest, Art, and Photography Contests. All orders, fees, and entry forms must be submitted online by February 24.

More information may be obtained from the Extension Office or be
found at:

<https://4h.unl.edu/horse/stampede>

4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENT FOR 2025

Dawson County enrollment is \$10/member for 2025. 4-H members are greatly encouraged to enroll by April 1 and the state deadline is June 15. Youth should be enrolled to participate in club activities, work with project leaders to prepare county fair exhibits and events, and be included in the county supplemental insurance policy. No one is allowed to participate in any 4-H shooting sports practices without being enrolled.

4-H enrollment is available year-round, however, to compete in the Dawson County Fair events, you must be registered on 4-H ONLINE by June 15. Participation in some 4-H Activities, such as county contests, require enrollment in 4-H ONLINE prior to the event.

4-H Online is the program used for 4-H enrollment.

Log in at v2.4honline.com

*4H Online does not support Internet Explorer as a browser- Please use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your browser for this program. You will use the same login email and password as you used in previous years.

Instructions to enroll can be found at <https://4h.unl.edu/enroll>

Families will need to be responsible for completing the required ID sheets and getting their animals eartagged by the deadlines set by the county offices. This will include market beef weigh-in and entering animal data into Show Stock Manager for nominations for State Fair.

ELIGIBILITY FROM NEBRASKA 4-H POLICY HANDBOOK

4-H Age: The age of the youth before January 1 of the current year.

If your birthday is on January 1, your 4-H age is the age you were on December 31st.

If you turn eight (8) on January 1, your 4-H age is seven (7).

If you turn nine (9) on January 1, your 4-H age is eight (8).

4-H eligibility is determined based on the 4-H age. (The age of the member on December 31st of the previous year)

- The first year of eligibility for participation in the 4-H Clover Kids program is the 4-H age of five (5).
- The last year of eligibility for participation in the 4-H Clover Kids program is the 4-H age of seven (7).
- The first year of eligibility for the regular 4-H program is the 4-H age of eight (8).
- The last year of eligibility is 4-H age of eighteen (18).

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 kids 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 three 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 organizational and project leaders who have successfully completed the Volunteer Profile
- 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 the Club meets all the requirements they will get a certificate and a seal the first year and an additional seal in subsequent qualifying years. The form to complete is [linked here](#). Forms are due to the Dawson County Extension Office by September 23 (achievement application due date). Information will be on our website.



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EXTENSION

Special Agronomy Project

go.unl.edu/specialagronomy

Enroll by contacting your local extension office.

2025: Sunflowers

- 4-H members enrolled in the Special Agronomy Project will:
- Receive a 'packet' of seeds (one packet per youth) in March/April
 - Grow their seeds in their garden or pots
 - Receive written resource materials
 - Be eligible to enter an exhibit at both the County and/or State Fair in the agronomy project area:
 - G750011 - Special Agronomy Project - Educational Exhibit (SF259)
 - G750012 Special Agronomy Project -Video Presentation
 - G750013 Special Agronomy Project (Freshly Harvested Crop – Either 2 heads or 2, 2-foot stalks)

Enroll for the 2025 Special Agronomy Project through 4-H Online by enrolling in the Special Agronomy project in 4-H Online and contacting the Dawson County Extension Office to order packets of seeds. We will order and distribute the seeds.

Please sign up by February 27th.