



Happy 2026! We are excited to begin the New Year and a new month with some important updates.

Colfax County Office
(402) 352-3821

KateLynn Ness
4-H Extension Educator
kness2@nebraska.edu

TJ Prochaska
Water and Integrated
Cropping Systems
Extension Educator
tprochaska2@unl.edu

Brenda Dolezal
Office Manager
bdolezal2@nebraska.edu

IT IS TIME FOR A NEW 4-H YEAR!

As we welcome in the new year, please be sure to enroll in 4-H for the 2025-2026 4-H year! Complete your enrollment 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 their 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.

Upcoming Events:

February 11th Colfax County 4-H Leader Training - Zoom - 7:00 p.m.

February 16th Colfax County Extension Office Closed in observance of President's Day

March 9th Colfax County 4-H Council Meeting - Clarkson Library - 7:00 p.m.

March 13th In-person YQCA training - Colfax County Extension Office - 5:30-6:30 p.m.

April 18th Colfax County Livestock Judging Contest





On Friday, January 2nd eight Colfax County 4-H members, and six volunteers came together to cut, piece and sew what will be the 11th Quilt of Valor presented to a local veteran by the Colfax County 4-H program. The Quilt of Valor Sewing Work Day is a rewarding experience for both youth and volunteers.

Jeanne Scheuneman, Colfax County 4-H Volunteer shared: "It is very rewarding for me to have the opportunity to teach sewing skills to 4-H youth. My favorite project is creating the Quilt of Valor. I am glad to see 4-H youth develop a sense of community service and gratitude to the Veterans for their service to protect our freedom. I am proud when a Veteran is honored by being presented a Quilt of Valor. It means so much to those individuals to be recognized and valued. The youth glow with pride to be able to do this too."

4-H member Lindley Bailey also shared: "I am thankful I got to participate in making the Quilt of Valor. It is a very special experience that not everyone is a part of. Making the quilt made me feel good knowing there is a very special person that risked their life to make me feel safe."

2026 ANNUAL COLFAX COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL AWARD WINNERS

On Sunday, January 25, 2026, the Colfax County 4-H Council held their annual Volunteer Banquet. The following individuals were honored for their dedication to the Colfax County 4-H program:

- Clint Jedlicka, Outstanding 4-H Alumni
- Bela Jedlicka, Outstanding 4-H Member
- Paul Brichacek, Friend of 4-H

We would like to say thank you to each of them for their time and contributions to our Colfax County 4-H members. These awards are sponsored by the Colfax County 4-H Council and the Nebraska 4-H Foundation.



2026 QUILT OF VALOR RECIPIENT



The quilt presented during the banquet was presented to David Herling. Herling served in the U.S. Marine Corp. from 1986 to 1995. Herling was a member of the Marine Corp Barracks, US Naval Security Group Activity, Sabana Seca, PR. During his time with the 3rd Battalion 5th Marines, Camp Pendleton, he had an overseas deployment to Panama. When with the Helicopter Marine Light Attack (HMLA) Squadron 169, Camp Pendleton, CA he had overseas deployments to: Arabian Gulf & Saudi Arabia for Desert Storm, Humanitarian Aid to Bangladesh, Futenma, Okinawa, Osan, Korea, and Camp Humphries, Korea. He also served with the Naval Air Station Memphis in Millington, TN.

While in the Marine's, David earned Individual medals: Good Conduct Medal (2), and the Navy Achievement Medal, in addition to numerous other awards. While a member of HMLA 169 he was nominated as the Marine Corps Aviation Association Plane Captain of the Year for HMLA 169. He supervised the night crew during two deployments and an amphibious exercise, was the Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) of the flight line training program and was the leading squadron Collateral Duty Quality Assurance Representative (CDQAR). He attended USMC NCO School in 1992.

David has coached his kids' t-ball and baseball teams, regularly volunteers at church, and currently serves as his church's financial secretary and is always willing to help out where he is needed in his community.

The quilt was presented by the six Colfax County 4-H members that pieced it together; Lindley Bailey, Justin Eisenmann and Kara Eisenmann of Schuyler, Evolette Burenheide of Howells, Bailey Prinz of Clarkson, and Alyse Wolfe of Richland.

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 is 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!





New 4-H 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 with the enrollment process.

Free Chicks!



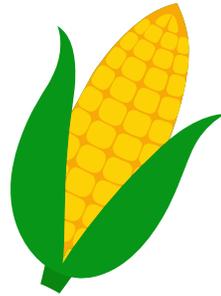
Looking for a new 4-H project? All Colfax County 4-H members can receive 5 free broilers with the only requirement being that they **MUST** be shown at the Colfax County Fair. These chickens can be shown in either 4-H or open class. Chickens will be available for pickup at Messing's house in late May.

Please call the Extension Office at 402-352-3821 by March 12th to reserve your chickens. If you have questions about pick up and care, please call or text Rachel Messing at 402-615-1725 for more details.

This offer is open to any 4-H member, although we would highly recommend this to 4-H members that have never done the poultry project before, as here is a good opportunity to get started in the project!

Don't worry if you didn't sign up for the poultry project when you enrolled, if you are interested in receiving free chickens and showing at fair, we can add the project for you. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H before this March 12th deadline in order to receive the free chickens.

One other requirement for showing the chickens at the Colfax County Fair in 4-H is that you must receive quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) to be eligible to show.



Youth Crop Scouting Team(s)

Colfax County 4-H's Crop Scouting coach, Steve Nelson, is beginning to plan a team roster for 2026. 4-H members who have completed their fifth through 12th grades are eligible to participate in this event. If you would like to participate on the 2026 Colfax County 4-H Crop Scouting Team, please contact Steve Nelson at: (402) 720-3774.

Camp Scholarship



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 1/2 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 2025 will have first priority, but all 4-H'ers are encouraged to apply. A flier of Nebraska 4-H Summer Camps is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Deadline for the camp scholarships is June 1, 2026.



Colfax County 4-H Leader Training

Attention all Leaders - We will be hosting a Leader's Training via zoom on Wednesday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. It is recommended that **ALL** leaders **ATTEND** the training. Topics covered will include enrollment updates, volunteer screening, livestock updates, fair changes and more. Zoom link has been sent via email.

If you cannot make it, please let Brenda or KateLynn know.



Colfax County Livestock Judging Contest: SAVE THE DATE!

The Colfax County Livestock Judging Contest will be held on Saturday, April 18th at the Colfax County Fairgrounds in Leigh, Nebraska from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please save the date on your calendars!

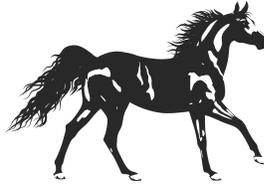


Communication Contest

The 4-H County Communication Contest will be held at 4:00pm on April 12, 2026 at the West Education Center on the CCC campus in Columbus. This contest includes the events:

Speech
Impromptu Speech
Public Service
Announcement
Presentation
Video

Open to Clover Kids & Youth ages 8-18. Pre-Registration is required. Registration opens February 1st and closes on April 1st. More information on each event and instructions on how to register can be found in the flier at the end of this newsletter.



2026 Horse Stampede

We have a quick update to share regarding the upcoming 2026 Horse Stampede.

2026 4-H Horse Stampede Dates:
Saturday, April 25 – Sunday, April 26, 2026

Entries must be submitted online by Wednesday, April 15, 2026. All other event and contest details remain the same as last year. Find more information at [NE 4-H Horse Stampede](#). We hope your youth can join us for one or more contest and we will also be looking for contest volunteers and would love to have you join us!

More details will be shared in the coming weeks, but we wanted to make sure this exciting update is on your annual 4-H calendar.

We can't wait to have a successful 2026 Horse Stampede! Thank you, and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions to Makayla Burg at mberg2@unl.edu



2026 Special Garden Project

4-H members enrolled in the 2026 Special Garden Project will receive a packet of Alumia Vanilla Cream marigold seeds this spring along with a newsletter covering how to plant, grow, harvest, and use their marigolds. Youth can exhibit their flowers in Special Garden Project classes at both County and State Fair, as well as other county-specific opportunities like stories, poems, or posters. After completing the project, participants are encouraged to fill out a short evaluation about their growing experience. To take part, enroll in Horticulture through 4-H Online and contact your local Extension Office to order seeds. For questions, reach out to Elizabeth Exstrom at eesxtrom2@nebraska.edu or 308-385-5088.

Please call the Colfax County Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 2nd so we can order your seeds.



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.

In the sixth year of the special agronomy project, youth will explore TWO varieties of popcorn! The first is an heirloom variety that was discovered and developed by a farmer in eastern Nebraska, called Nebraska Red. The second is a commercial variety, Robust 997. 4-H members enrolled in the Special Agronomy Project will:

- For 2026, each youth will receive 2 'packets' of seeds in April

Please call the Colfax County Extension Office at (402) 352-3821 to place your seed order by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23rd.

To learn more about this project, please visit:



Nebraska 4-H Member Month

February is 4-H Member Month in Nebraska! Throughout February, Nebraska 4-H will be sharing examples of how membership in 4-H prepares youth across our state to be ready for work and for life. Stay tuned to the Nebraska Extension in Colfax County Facebook page for updates as well. With hands-on learning and supportive relationships, 4-H helps youth discover their sparks, or the interests and skills that inspire purpose, while fostering a strong sense of belonging where members feel valued and connected. Youth also benefit from developmental relationships with caring adults who guide and encourage growth, as well as from meaningful engagement through active leadership and learning opportunities. Learn more about 4-H Member Month at <https://4h.unl.edu/news/4-h-member-month> and enroll in Colfax County 4-H today!



Complimentary Curriculum

Complimentary 4-H Curriculum Now Available for Enrolled Nebraska 4-H Youth and Volunteers

Nebraska 4-H is pleased to announce that all enrolled Nebraska 4-H youth and volunteers receive complimentary online access to 4-H curriculum developed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln!

More than 30 digital publications are available at no cost to enrolled Nebraska 4-H members and volunteers. These learning resources cover a variety of topics, including clothing, babysitting, shopping, entomology, poultry, and many more.

Access to the digital curriculum is provided through the 4HOnline Member Enrollment system. Once enrollment has been completed and approved, youth members and volunteers will receive an email with a link to begin exploring the available resources.

Enroll in Nebraska 4-H today at <https://4h.unl.edu/enroll> - and receive more details emailed directly to you from 4HOnline about the Complimentary 4-H Curriculum provided to you by Nebraska 4-H!



Livestock Achievement Program

We are excited to announce the fifth year of the Nebraska 4-H Livestock Achievement Program! This program provides an additional opportunity for enrolled 4-H livestock project youth to strengthen their knowledge and leadership skills across all aspects of livestock projects, including selection, production, leadership, and exhibition.

The program recognizes Members of Excellence in the following livestock project areas: beef, sheep, meat goat, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, rabbit, and poultry. The Livestock Achievement Program consists of three levels designed to support age-appropriate growth and learning. Youth plan and report a broad range of project-related accomplishments by selecting goals from an approved list, with each accomplishment carrying a designated point value.

- Juniors (ages 8–9): Complete 75 points. Submit pictures, posters, presentations, and other learning activities to earn the distinction of Junior Member of Excellence.
- Intermediates (ages 10–13): Complete 100 points of activities to earn Intermediate Member of Excellence.
- Seniors (ages 14–18): Complete 150 points of activities to earn Senior Member of Excellence.

Plan and Report forms, available on the program webpage, provide examples of eligible accomplishments. Members may also propose their own project-related accomplishments with approval from their local Extension educator.

- Applications are due June 15 and must be submitted through the online application form.
- Plan and Reports and Project Records are due August 1 and must be submitted via the online completion form.

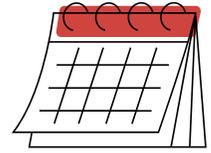
Youth who complete the program and earn Member of Excellence recognition will be recognized during the Grand Drive during 4-H weekend at the Nebraska State Fair.

For more information and to apply, visit:
<https://go.unl.edu/lap>

Contacts:

Cole Meador – cmeador2@unl.edu
Brett Kreifels – brett.kreifels@unl.edu
Kelly Schole – kschole2@unl.edu
Ashley Benes – ashley.benes@unl.edu

PASE Save the Dates!



PASE will be May 27-29, 2026. More information to come. Check out the website for more information about events. [Premier Animal Science Event | Nebraska 4-H | Nebraska](#)

The Nebraska 4-H Premier Animal Science Event (PASE) features a variety of state-level animal science contests. The three-day event is held annually at the [Nebraska Animal Science Complex](#) in Lincoln. Youth explore issues related to the animal industry, discover college and career opportunities, and work with other youth from across the state. Youth have the opportunity to participate in livestock contests that do not require owning or exhibiting a live animal, including livestock, meat, poultry, companion animal, and animal welfare judging, as well as livestock skill-a-thon and livestock quiz bowl. Youth can participate in more than one contest or event as their schedule allows. In addition, youth will have chances to explore the University of Nebraska–Lincoln East Campus, meet with faculty members and current college students, and have fun with friends!

Heartland Triple Crown Livestock Judging Series

We are excited to share information regarding the Heartland Triple Crown Livestock Judging Series! This three-day livestock judging event will be taking place June 17-19, 2026. During this, participants will take part in 10 placing classes, enjoy a clinic, and compete for awards in each age division and species. With events hosted in Columbus, Bladen, and Nelson, Nebraska, each day offers something unique—plus fun evening activities, including a BBQ after-party and a final banquet and awards ceremony. Whether you're a seasoned judge or new to the arena, this is the perfect opportunity to sharpen your skills, meet fellow competitors, and close out the circuit in style. More information is included in the attached flier.

Registration details available at:
<https://go.unl.edu/lj26>



Nebraska 4-H Summer Camps

We are excited to announce the 2026 Nebraska 4-H Summer Camp season! Youth are invited to join us and Big Gumdrop Outdoors as we explore the world around us through our Exploring Ecosystems theme. Please share the following message and attached graphic with your 4-H families.

During the 2026 Exploring Ecosystems season, campers will explore Nebraska's natural world, discover how ecosystems connect, and learn how they can help care for the environment - all while having fun at camp!

The Nebraska State 4-H Camp is offering both day camps and overnight camp opportunities. Camp will return to Chadron for a 5 day overnight session (June 15-19) for youth ages 8-14. Day camps will be held in Grand Island (June 30) and Lincoln (July 22) for youth ages 8-12 providing a great introduction to the camp experience.

Registration is now OPEN! More information on sessions, dates, scholarships, and the link to register can be found at 4h.unl.edu/camp, and at the flier attached at the end of this newsletter.



Red Letter Days

Discover Nebraska during Red Letter Days! High school juniors and seniors, join us for a full-day campus visit experience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Explore academic opportunities, engage in student and parent sessions, and enjoy a campus tour. Available on select Mondays and Fridays. Register now at go.unl.edu/visit.



UNL BIG RED CAMPS

Big Red Summer Academic Camps are residential career exploration camps held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. By participating in a camp, youth live on and explore the Nebraska campus, meet students from across the country, investigate an interest or potential career, and have lots of fun making new friends. (This is not a commuter camp). During the week-long camps, students will work with university faculty to explore the topic of their particular camp, like engineering, digital media, or food systems. After spending several fun-filled days on campus, families are invited to attend a capstone presentation where students showcase their achievements. Big Red Summer Academic Camps are open to students going into grades 9-12 during the 2026-2027 school year. Housing and food are provided. Space is limited, and camps will fill on a first-come, first-serve basis. To ensure the optimal co-hort learning experience, each camp sets a maximum registration. A waitlist option will be available. Please see [Camp Sessions](#) for a list of camps offered, descriptions, capacity, costs, and scholarship opportunities. Big Red Summer Academic Camps are hosted by Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development and University faculty members in various academic areas across campus.

2026 Dates & Deadlines

Deadlines are 11:59 p.m. CT on each of the following days:

- Pre-Registration/Priority Scholarship Application Deadline - Friday, January 23
- General Scholarship Application Deadline - Friday, March 6
- Registration Opens - Tuesday, February 10, at 8:00 a.m. CT
- Early Bird Tuition Rate Deadline - Friday, April 17
- Regulation Tuition Rate Deadline - Friday, May 1
- Late Tuition Rate and Final Registration Deadline - Friday, May 22
- Health Form Submission Deadline - Friday, May 22
- Big Red Camps - Sunday, June 7 - Friday, June 12

To learn more please visit:

<https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/big-red-summer-academic-camps/>



YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA)

Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete annual quality assurance certification through yqcaprogram.org. YQCA is a national multi-species quality assurance program focused on three core pillars: food safety, animal well-being, and character development.

Who Needs YQCA?

All 4-H members ages 8–18 enrolled in livestock projects, including beef, dairy cattle, goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine.

Training Options:

- Online Training: Web-based course through YQCA

Cost: \$12 per youth

Includes interactive modules, a skills lab, and a quiz (80% required to pass)

Provides 2–3 hours of age-appropriate, flexible learning with audio support

If you elect to complete the online training option, please visit the following link:

<https://yqcaprogram.org/>

- In-Person Training: Instructor-led, face-to-face sessions (when available), please see the list of possible in person trainings below.

Please note that YQCA completion certificates are due to the Colfax County Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 1st. please either email your certificate to Brenda (bdolezal2@unl.edu) or KateLynn (kness2@unl.edu), or bring your printed copy into the office. Questions? call us at (402) 352-3821.

In Person YQCA Sessions

For In person YQCA Sessions carefully follow these steps:

1. Enroll in 4-H Online at v2.4honline.com (remember to use your same login information from last year if you are a returning 4-H member).
2. Visit yqcaprogram.org/ and sign in with your same login information from last year, unless this is your first time taking the course.
3. Find the training session you will attend on the list and register. Be sure you select the correct date, time, location, and trainer.
4. Pay the \$3 fee with a credit card.
5. Complete the pretest prior to the training - located on the "Enrolled Trainings" page.
6. Attend the training.
7. Following the training, take the post survey and print your certificate.
8. Either email your certificate to Brenda or KateLynn, or bring your printed copy in to the office!

Colfax County In Person YQCA Training

Location: Colfax County Extension Office in Schuyler

- Friday, March 13th 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Platte County In Person YQCA Trainings

Location: Platte County Extension Office

- March 13: 10 am
- April 20: 6:00 pm
- May 11: 7:30 pm
- May 22: 3:00 pm

Questions? Contact Blake at (402) 563-4901 or bwert3@nebraska.edu

Butler County In Person YQCA Trainings

Highway 92 Building | 3190 N Rd, David City, NE 68632

- Sunday, February 8, 4:30-5:30
- Sunday March 15, 4:30-5:30
- Monday, April 6th, 3:00-4:00

Questions? Contact Janessa Rawhouser at 402-367-7410 or jbergman3@unl.edu.

Thank you to the following leaders for their milestone years of service to the Colfax County 4-H program:

31 years, Renae Vogel
24 years, Jill Ruskamp
12 years, Phillip Wendt
11 years, Rachel Malena
10 years, Chris Bourek, Tina Bourek, and Brent Brabec
9 years, Laura Eisenmann
7 years, Al Sucha
6 years, Brandy Balzer, and Sara Prinz
4 years, Jill Bailey, Jamie Hastreiter, Amanda Jedlicka, Greg Shonka, Staci Shonka, and Cori Vavricek
3 years, Brianna Burenheide
2 years, Jacob Vogel.

A combined total of 165 years of service!



Important Dates, Deadlines, and Reminders

- February 23 - Special Agronomy Project Seed Order Deadline-Call us at: (402) 352-3821 to place your seed order
- March 2 - Special Garden Project Seed Order Deadline-Call our office at (402) 352-3821 to place your seed order
- March 13 - YQCA Training at the Colfax County Extension Office - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- April 1 - Deadline to Register for the Communications Event in 4-HOnline
- April 15 - 4-H Horse Stampede Registration Deadline
- April 24 - Colfax County Extension Office closed in observance of Arbor Day
- April 25-26 - 4-H Horse Stampede, Lincoln
- May 25 - Colfax County Extension Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
- May 27-29 PASE in Lincoln
- June 1 - Camp Scholarships due to the Colfax County Extension Office by 4:30 p.m
- June 1 - YQCA Deadline
- June 15 - Livestock Achievement Applications are due

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



Free Chickens!

Looking for a new 4-H project? All Colfax County 4-H members can receive 5 free broilers with the **only requirement being that they MUST be shown at the Colfax County Fair. These chickens can be shown in either 4-H or open class.**

Chickens will be available for pickup at Messing's house in late May.

Please call the Extension Office at 402-352-3821 by March 12th to reserve your chickens. If you have questions about pick up and care, please call or text Rachel Messing at 402-615-1725 for more details.

This offer is open to any 4-H member, although we would highly recommend this to 4-H members that have never done the poultry project before, as here is a good opportunity to get started in the project!

Don't worry if you didn't sign up for the poultry project when you enrolled, if you are interested in receiving free chickens and showing at fair, we can add the project for you. **Youth must be enrolled in 4-H before this March 12th deadline in order to receive the free chickens.**

One other requirement for showing the chickens at the Colfax County Fair in 4-H is that you must receive quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) to be eligible to show.

2026 Communication Event

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

Event Date & Time: Sunday, April 12, 2026; 4:00 p.m.

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

Registration: Online pre-registration required. Registration deadline is April 1, 2026.

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 Today, Leading Tomorrow"**
- 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 tagline 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 online 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 Today, Leading Tomorrow**”.
- 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 online at:

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

- Video Communication Judging Criteria

2026 Communication Event On-Line Registration

Deadline April 1, 2026

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 2026 Communication Event (Butler, Colfax, Platte) – Click Next

Select Category and Click on “Start Registration”

HEARTLAND TRIPLE CROWN



LIVESTOCK JUDGING SERIES



JUNE 17-19, 2026



JOIN US FOR THE THREE-DAY LIVESTOCK JUDGING SHOWDOWN!
CELEBRATE THE END OF THE GREAT PLAINS JUDGING CIRCUIT WITH
THREE EXCITING DAYS OF COMPETITION, FUN, AND RECOGNITION.

 AWARDS FOR EACH AGE DIVISION AND SPECIES

10 PLACING CLASSES

PRICING DETAILS ON REGISTRATION



DAY 1 — COLUMBUS, NE

 LOCATION: AG PARK
822 15TH ST.

COLUMBUS, NE 68601

REGISTRATION: 8:15-9:00 AM

CLINIC: 8:45 - 9:45 AM

 JUDGING BEGINS: 10:00 AM

DAY 2 — BLADEN, NE

 LOCATION: FAIRGROUNDS
459 N CRESCENT ST.

BLADEN, NE 68928

REGISTRATION: 9:00-9:30 AM

 JUDGING BEGINS: 10:00 AM

 EVENING AFTER PARTY:
5:00 PM — BBQ & GAMES

DAY 3 — NELSON, NE

 LOCATION: FAIRGROUNDS
1256 RD 3300

NELSON, NE 68961

REGISTRATION: 9:00-9:30 AM

 JUDGING BEGINS: 10:00 AM

 EVENING BANQUET &
AWARDS CEREMONY: 5:00 PM

FOR QUESTIONS OR REGISTRATION DETAILS, CONTACT:

PLATTE COUNTY EXTENSION: 402-563-4901

WEBSTER COUNTY EXTENSION: 402-746-3417

SOUTHERN PLAINS COUNTY EXTENSION: 402-225-2381 OR 402-768-7212

FIND MORE DETAILS ON OUR BROCHURE

Register here:

<https://go.unl.edu/lj26>





Big Gumdrops
Outdoors

SUMMER CAMP 2026!

EXPLORING ECOSYSTEMS

OVERNIGHT CAMP

CHADRON

June 15th-19th
Ages 8-14

DAY CAMPS

GRAND ISLAND

June 30th
Ages 8-12

LINCOLN

July 22nd
Ages 8-12

Register Here
or at the link:

4h.unl.edu/camp



Apply for a
scholarship
today:

4h.unl.edu/camps-discounts/



Contact Us: 4hcampst@unl.edu