



# Dawes County 4-H Newsletter

February, 2024



## 4-H Calendar



### *Calendar of Events:*

**February:** Nebraska 4-H Month!

**February 1:** 4-H Month- Spirit Day

**February 4:** Panhandle Best Shoot- Kimball

**February 8:** 4-H Month- Volunteer Appreciation Day

-9th Grade Resume' Class w/ Melissa @ Crawford High School

**February 11:** Panhandle Best Shoot- Hyannis

**February 14:** Chadron Middle School-7th Grade Leadership Skills w/Melissa

Happy 4-H Month



-STEM Reading Connections w/ Melissa at Chadron Primary School Just For Kids, Afterschool Prog.

**February 15:** 4-H Month- Supporter Appreciation Day

**February 17:** Beef Weigh-Ins @ Crawford Livestock Market 9AM-12 PM

**February 18:** Panhandle Best Shoot- Mitchell

-Highland Huddlers Mtg. 2 PM @ CSC Planetarium Guest Speaker: Melissa Mracek

**February 19:** OFFICE CLOSED- Presidents Day

**February 22:** 4-H Month- Give Back Day

**February 23:** Origami Crane Mobile Workshop, 2-4 PM

**February 25:** Panhandle Best Shoot- Alliance

**February 26:** 8th Grade Career Exploration w/ Melissa @ Chadron Middle School

**February 29:** 4-H Month- Leap into 4-H - Get Enrolled in 4-H

**March 11:** 4-H Council Meeting, 6pm @ The Extension Office

**May 30:** (Tentative) Sheep & Goat Weigh-Ins @ Dawes County Fairgrounds

**Deadlines:**

**February 5:** Special Garden Seed Deadline

**February 12:** Valentines Cards for the Nursing Home Due to the Extension Office

**February 19:** Origami Mobile Workshop Registration

**February 27:** Dawes County Creativity Contest- Fair Theme & Promotional Poster Due

---

## *Meet Your New Dawes County 4-H Assistant!*

We are excited to announce that Kylin Munger will be serving as the new Dawes County 4-H Assistant! Kylin is from Springview, Nebraska where she grew up and played a huge part in her family's ranch. She graduated from Chadron State College with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Ag-Business. She will be getting married this spring and will be making Chadron her permanent home! She loves learning, meeting people and making a difference one step at a time! She can't wait to get involved in the community and raise her future family here.



# 4-H MONTH

**4-H SPIRIT DAY**  
THURSDAY, February 1

**4-H VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY**  
THURSDAY, February 8

**4-H SUPPORTER APPRECIATION DAY**  
THURSDAY, February 15

**GIVE BACK DAY**  
THURSDAY, February 22

**LEAP INTO 4-H - GET ENROLLED IN 4-H**  
THURSDAY, February 29



## Nebraska 4-H Month All February Long!

February is here and that means it's Nebraska 4-H Month! Show us how much you love 4-H and celebrate with us!

Do you have a favorite 4-H memory? Email [chelsey.scherbarth@unl.edu](mailto:chelsey.scherbarth@unl.edu) to be shared on our Facebook page!

### 4-H MONTH

**SPIRIT DAY**  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1



**2.1.24**

Wear your 4-H Shirt or just wear green! Share your photos with us on our Facebook page!

### 4-H MONTH

**4-H VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION**  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8



**2.8.24**

Share a story about a 4-H Club Leader, Superintendent or other 4-H Volunteer that has made

### 4-H MONTH

**4-H SUPPORTER APPRECIATION**  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15



**2.15.24**

Thank a person/business for supporting Dawes County 4-H! Without donors, we would not

an impact on your 4-H program.  
<https://go.unl.edu/6974>  
Write a thank you to tell a volunteer thank you for all they do to help your 4-H program!

be able to have all of the programs that we offer to Dawes County youth.



**2.22.24**

Give back to your community-

READ BELOW to see what we're doing to give back to our community!



**2.29.24**

Leap Into 4-H- Get Enrolled!

To enroll in 4-H go to <https://4honline.com/>

Tell your friends! If they have questions about our 4-H Program, have them fill out our Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/VNepeJtwuVr2fNm78>

## *2.22.24- Give Back Day...*

4-H Month is a great time to give back to others in the community. One group that sometimes gets forgotten about are residents of nursing homes. Feelings of loneliness can be decreased after receiving mail. So this year for 4-H month we are encouraging 4-H members to send cards to residents in the nursing home. Attached are card templates that can be used or draw one of your own. We would like to have cards dropped off at the nursing homes for Valentines Day so please plan to deliver them to the Extension Office by February 12, but cards can be dropped off anytime through the month of February. We also have templates you can pick up at the Extension Office. When sending a card to someone in the nursing home you may not have a personal connection with that person and may not know what their preferences are so for your message it can be an uplifting quote or wishes such as:

"Sending you warm wishes and letting you know someone out there is caring about you." Here are some other things to consider:

- Do not include your personal information like last name, address, email address
- Keep messages generic and nonreligious

- Add fun drawings

Here are some suggestions of what to put in your card:

- Wishing you a wonderful day!
- Thinking about you!
- For someone who's special and wonderful...
- Just a friendly little hello from me to you!
- Just felt like sharing a smile with you today!
- Sending happy thoughts your way!
- Hoping you know how special you are...
- This greeting is sent with warmest wishes to brighten your day!
- Wishing you a wonderful day to a wonderful person!
- You are loved!
- Sending sunshine

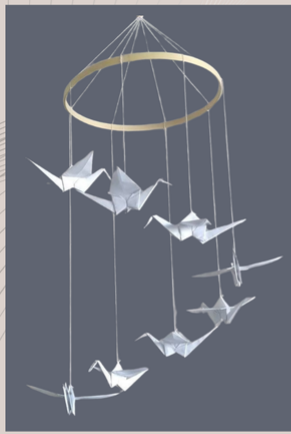
### **VALENTINE CARD TO COLOR.pdf**

[Download](#)

1.1 MB

---

*Check out our February Workshop:*



## ORIGAMI PAPER CRANE MOBILE

Friday,  
February,  
23, 2024  
2-4 pm

**Come learn history of origami and create a paper crane mobile to display in your room!**

- Cost: \$5
- Ages: 8-18
- Dawes County Extension Office  
(250 Main St. Ste 8)
- Register by calling: (308)432-3373
- Register by: 2/19



The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see [go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination](http://go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination) (c) 2024

## Nebraska 4-H Month Photography Contest

With Nebraska 4-H Month fast approaching, we would like to showcase the talent of our 4-H youth through a Nebraska 4-H Month Photography Challenge. Each week, two new themes will be introduced on Mondays throughout February. Any Nebraska 4-H youth can participate by taking pictures inspired by the theme and submit. Each week, there will be a selected winner from each category who will win some 4-H swag.



Here is some information you may want to know:

- You can take pictures on whatever device you are comfortable with.
- Youth may submit one picture per category per week.
- You will need to save your picture as "First Initial Last Name - Theme". Example: J Doe – 4-H Spark
- Photos are to be submitted on Sundays by 11:59 pm (Central Time) at the link listed above.
- An Extension Team will select one winner per category; winners will be announced that week, along with a posting of each submission.
- 4-H Swag will be distributed in March through local 4-H offices to the winners.
- Your pictures may be used in future Nebraska 4-H campaigns or on social media!

- Release on Thursday, February 1st
- Submission 11:59 pm CT on Sunday, February 11th

**Personality & Mystery Object:**

- Release on Monday, February 5th
- Submission by 11:59pm CT on Sunday, February 11th

**Nature/Weather & Black and White:**

- Release on Monday, February 12th
- Submission by 11:59pm CT on Sunday, February 18th.

**Action Picture & My Community or Hometown:**

- Release on Monday, February 19th
- Submission by 11:59pm CT on Sunday, February 25th.

**Selfie! & Reflection:**

- Release on Monday, February 26th
- Submission by 11:59pm CT on Sunday, March 3rd.

Go to: <https://4h.unl.edu/photography-showcase> to learn more!

To submit photos go to: <https://4h.unl.edu/photography-showcase-submission-form>

---

## *Fair Theme & 4-H Promotional Contest*

Dawes County Ag Society and 4-H Program is looking for a creative spark in a young 4-H'er for this year's Dawes County Fair Theme & 4-H Promotional Poster Contest. Prizes will be awarded for each contest. Entries are due February 27th



# 2024 DAWES COUNTY CREATIVITY CONTESTS

Open to Ages 5-18 as of 1/1/24

## 4-H Promotional Poster

\$20 Award

2 Age Divisions: 10 & Under & 11-18

Posters will be displayed throughout the year

Entries must include:

- Name, Age, Telephone Number (On Back)
- 4-H Clover

(Refer to rules on the use of the 4-H Clover at:  
<http://4h.unl.edu/4hnameemblemguidelines>)

- Hand Drawn/ Computer Generated
- 8.5" x 11" in Size (Landscape or Portrait)
- No Copyrighted Characters! (Snoopy, Sponge Bob Etc.)
- Include Contact Information for the Dawes County Extension Office

## Pick Your County Fair Theme

Winning Theme will be used for  
Promotional Material & Advertising at the  
Dawes County Fair July 26-Aug. 3rd  
Free Family Fair Pass for Winner  
(Courtesy of Dawes County Ag. Society)

What does fair mean to you  
& your community?

Entries must include:

- Name, Age, Telephone Number (On Back)
- 8.5" x 11" in Size (Landscape or Portrait)
- Share Theme Idea & Add Optional Picture for Greater Effect
- Hand Drawn or Computer Generated



**Please Submit Entries by**

**February 27 to:**

UNL- Nebraska Extension  
Dawes County  
250 Main St. Ste 8  
Chadron, NE 69337

Questions?  
Call 308-432-3373

Email:  
[chelsey.scherbarth@unl.edu](mailto:chelsey.scherbarth@unl.edu)



## Market Beef Weigh-Ins

Dawes County 4-H will hold their Market Beef Weigh-In on **Saturday, February 17th, from 9 am to noon, at Crawford Livestock Market**. Youth planning to exhibit a market beef animal at the Dawes County Fair must bring it to the weigh in to be tagged and identified. Youth planning to show at the Nebraska State Fair and Aksarben should let the office know as there are other requirements for showing (EID tag and DNA).

Members who cannot make the weigh-in date may attend the Sheridan County Market Beef weigh in if necessary. If attending the alternative weigh-in, members must notify the beef superintendents and the office. Members will not be eligible to compete in the Rate of Gain contest if weighing in at an different location.

### Sheridan

Sunday, February 4th from 1 pm to 3 pm

Sheridan Livestock, Rushville





# MARKET BEEF WEIGH-INS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024  
9 AM - 12 PM  
CRAWFORD LIVESTOCK MARKET

\*\*All youth planning to exhibit a market beef animal at the Dawes County Fair must bring it to the weigh-in to be tagged and identified.\*\*

## 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 honor a crop grown in the panhandle!

In the fourth year of the special agronomy project, youth will explore sugar beets! Sugar beets are a major contributor to the U.S. sweetener industry and occur in a vast range of different food products. Be eligible to enter an exhibit at both the County and/or State Fair in the agronomy project area.

Enroll for the 2024 Special Agronomy Project by contacting your local Nebraska Extension Office to order packets of seeds. The local Extension Office will order and distribute the seeds to members.



### 2024 Special Agronomy Project Sugar Beets

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 fourth year of the special agronomy project, youth will explore sugar beets. Sugar beets are a major contributor to the U.S. sweetener industry and occur in a vast range of different food products.

#### 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
  - GT50011 - Special Agronomy Project - Educational Exhibit (SF259)
  - GT50012 - Special Agronomy Project - Video Presentation
  - GT50013 - Special Agronomy Project (Freshly Harvested Crop)

Enroll for the 2024 Special Agronomy Project through 4-H Online by enrolling in the Agronomy project in 4-H Online and contacting your local Nebraska Extension Office to order packets of seeds. The local Extension Office will order and distribute the seeds.

Contact Breivy VanDerKraak at [brandy\\_vanderkraak@unl.edu](mailto:brandy_vanderkraak@unl.edu) or 402.759.3712 or Aspen Nygren at [aspen@unl.edu](mailto:aspen@unl.edu) or 402.624.6030



Nebraska Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, working with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln State Department of Agriculture. Nebraska Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture. © 2021

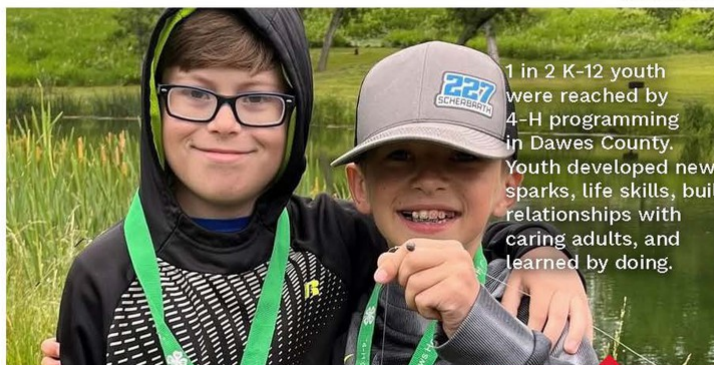
UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

# Dawes County Impact-At-A-Glance

At the conclusion of each year, Extension County Offices and Program Areas compile impact data and condense it into a report to share with stakeholders. Check out the Dawes County 2023 impact data below.

To view other counties, click here: <https://extension.unl.edu/impact/>

## Dawes County Impact At-A-Glance



1 in 2 K-12 youth were reached by 4-H programming in Dawes County. Youth developed new sparks, life skills, built relationships with caring adults, and learned by doing.

Nebraska Extension Dawes County partnered with Nebraska Game and Parks to offer a 4-H fishing workshop in Nebraska's Chadron State Park. Youth learned about common types of fish in Nebraska, differences in fishing poles, baits, angler ethics, and spent a few hours fishing. One parent stated, "The kids had so much fun and said best workshop ever! What a great partnership!"

### Programs At-A-Glance

- Chadron 5th graders immersed in science and engineering through an Incredible STEM Day program. They discovered minerals in rocks, practiced Laparoscopic Surgery, and more!
- Ladybug Life Cycle: One teacher said, "The program provided a new hands on experience and a connection with another supportive adult."

**100%**

of Dawes County 5th graders were reached with 4-H School Enrichment and Traditional Programming

**STRENGTHEN NEBRASKA  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**230.75 miles**

were completed by 19 Dawes County 3rd- 4th graders during a 3 week Extension Marathon Kids program.

**INSPIRE NEBRASKANS & THEIR  
COMMUNITIES**

**96%**

of Kindergartners better understand the Ladybug Life Cycle after participating in School Enrichment

**ENHANCE THE HEALTH & WELLBEING  
OF ALL NEBRASKANS**

Nebraska Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. Nebraska Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture. ©2023



## Corn Yield Challenge

We are delighted to announce the Corn Yield Challenge, a prestigious contest open to 4-H members (aged 8 and older as of January 1st) and FFA members (in-school members). This competition is designed to guide participants through a comprehensive exploration of all facets of corn production, including aspects related to agricultural careers associated with corn production.

Key Features:

- **Team Participation:** Teams comprising two or more youth participants will collaboratively embark on the challenge.
- **Innovative Practices:** Youth will be tasked with implementing a production practice differing from the norm, with the goal of assessing its impact on increasing corn yield.
- **Data Collection:** The Corn Yield Challenge management summary will systematically gather crucial information, including yields, cropping history, and production details.
- **Recognition and Rewards:** Outstanding achievements will be duly rewarded with cash prizes and plaques for the top three teams:

- First Place: \$1,000
- Second Place: \$500
- Third Place: \$250
- Special Awards: In addition to the top rankings, commendable efforts will be acknowledged through the "Extra Mile" and "Ag Literacy" Awards, each carrying a value of \$200.

This competition not only fosters a spirit of innovation in corn production but also serves as a platform for recognizing dedication and excellence within the 4-H and FFA communities. We encourage all eligible participants to embrace this opportunity to showcase their skills and contribute to the advancement of agricultural practices.

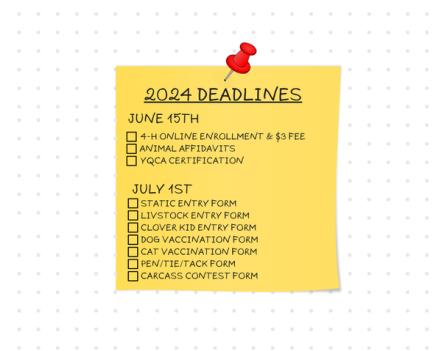
For detailed guidelines and participation information, please refer to the <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/cornchallenge> webpage or contact Brandy VanDeWalle at [brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu](mailto:brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu).



**50th Year of Ft. Robinson Horse Camp**



**Save the Date Fair 2024**



**2024 Deadlines**

- 2024 DEADLINES**
- JUNE 15TH**
- 4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENT & \$3 FEE
  - ANIMAL AFFIDAVITS
  - YQCA CERTIFICATION
- JULY 1ST**
- STATIC ENTRY FORM
  - LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORM
  - CLOVER KID ENTRY FORM
  - DOG VACCINATION FORM
  - CAT VACCINATION FORM
  - PEN/ITE PACK FORM
  - CARCASS CONTEST FORM

**Join our Remind- Code: 4hDawes**



**Kylin Munger- Dawes  
County 4-H Assistant**



**Melissa Mracek- North  
Panhandle 4-H Educator**  
[mmracek2@unl.edu](mailto:mmracek2@unl.edu)



**Ashley Ahrens- Food,  
Nutrition & Health  
Educator; Dawes County  
Lead Educator**  
[agoad2@unl.edu](mailto:agoad2@unl.edu)



**Chelsey Scherbarth-  
Dawes County Extension  
Office Manager**  
[chelsey.scherbarth@unl.edu](mailto:chelsey.scherbarth@unl.edu)



**Chelsey Scherbarth**

Chelsey is creating newsletters using smore



**Subscribe**



