

# 4-H Family Newsletter

January 2025



Nebraska Extension in Madison County

1305 South 13th Street  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
Phone: 402-370-4040

Website: [www.madison.unl.edu](http://www.madison.unl.edu)

Like Us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UNLMadisonCounty](https://www.facebook.com/UNLMadisonCounty)



## JOIN 4-H TODAY!



**Do not delay! Enroll in 4-H today!**

All members must enroll annually! To enroll visit [v2.4honline.com](https://v2.4honline.com).

For more information check out our page at: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/madison/join-4-h-today/>.

If you are reenrolling, use your email and password to sign in.

**Don't Forget!**

Before your enrollment can be accepted, dues must be paid. You can either pay the Extension Office with cash / check or pay online with credit card.

- 4-H Members and Clover Kids have an enrollment fee of \$5.00 per member.

**Need Assistance?**

Contact Sarah or Jayd for help enrolling by calling 402-370-4040.

*Passwords*—If you have forgotten your password, use the “reset password” option or contact the Extension Office. DO NOT set up a new profile.

## 2025 4-H Theme



# BEYOND READY

We are BEYOND READY to kick off 2025 with our Madison County 4-H Members



## 4-H Quilts of Valor

Community service is a big part of 4-H. 4-Hers and adult volunteers do a tremendous amount of service projects in their community and beyond. We would like to encourage 4-Hers to continue to “make a difference” by making Quilts of Valor that can be entered in the county and Nebraska State Fair. Help continue to make this project such a success by making your own Quilt of Valor to donate this year. If you have any questions about the project or guidelines, contact the Extension Office today!

We will have the opportunity to present Quilts during the Rodeo of the Madison County Fair honoring our Veterans again this year. Please contact us if you are interested 402-370-4040.

### 4-H Leader and Volunteer Screening

- All volunteers and staff who work directly with youth were required to complete the Nebraska 4-H volunteer screening process which will take approximately 5-10 minutes. Thank you for completing this process. If you haven't completed it yet, please do this as soon as possible. Volunteer screening is done to assure a safe, positive, and nurturing environment for all youth involved with the Nebraska 4-H programs and provide protection for the child, the volunteer, the educator, the 4-H Council, the Extension Board, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. Please note that direct volunteers are responsible for covering the screening fee. Currently, the cost of the screening is \$16.00 (this is NEW this year due to a new program which checks National and State Registry). This fee must be paid at the time of screening and re-screening through 4-HOnline.

● Please be screened by March 15!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**4-H Project Day 2025—**  
**Saturday, March 1 at the**  
**Madison County Fairgrounds**  
**from 9am-2pm.**

Please watch for a special email with the project offerings and registration!

### INNOVATIVE YOUTH CORN CHALLENGE

-Can you improve corn yields to meet the growing global demand?  
-Open to 4-H & FFA members  
-Over \$2,000 in cash prizes awarded!  
-Network with agronomic professionals!  
-Access to valuable corn resource materials!

Deadline to enter the contest: **April 1st**  
Download entry forms at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth>

start the innovation

For more info, call 402-759-3712.  
Sponsored by:

### Leaders Update and Reminders

Organizational Leaders received a mailing in December with updates and reminders as we begin our new year. Please be sure to turn in your *Treasurers report* along with your *Leader permission form*. Thank you to those who have already completed this. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Sarah.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES! ZOOM IN TO ASK QUESTIONS AND HEAR ABOUT OUR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES!

GO.UNL.EDU/VB2S

NOVEMBER 25 7 P.M. CST	FEBRUARY 24 7 P.M. CST
DECEMBER 30 7 P.M. CST	MARCH 31 7 P.M. CST
JANUARY 27 7 P.M. CST	APRIL 28 7 P.M. CST

# 2025 SPECIAL GARDEN PROJECT

## GOLDIE HUSK CHERRY



### Special Garden Project

[4h.unl.edu/special-gardening-project](https://4h.unl.edu/special-gardening-project)

The 2025 Special Garden Project will focus on the Goldie Husk Cherry. This old-fashioned fruit from the tomato family has sweet berries inside golden husks. The fruits have many uses and can be eaten raw, dried, frozen, canned, or made into tasty treats like pies, desserts, or preserves. (I assure you the husk cherry is different than a groundcherry, which is a weed in Nebraska, that looks very similar, but isn't edible)

Simply email Jayd to sign up [jroberts41@unl.edu](mailto:jroberts41@unl.edu) or sign up at this google link (**FEB. 3 DEADLINE**):  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aNAfqZdtUpZZnnPGiDfcVC\\_ia62Jf4Implh0xkd2HZI/edit?](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aNAfqZdtUpZZnnPGiDfcVC_ia62Jf4Implh0xkd2HZI/edit?usp=sharing)

[usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aNAfqZdtUpZZnnPGiDfcVC_ia62Jf4Implh0xkd2HZI/edit?usp=sharing)

Cost is \$2/packet.

Members are encouraged to enroll for Horticulture/Plant Science through 4-H Online.

Additional Resources can be found here:

<https://4h.unl.edu/special-garden-project>

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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 in. The project allows 4-H members interested in agronomy to grow something fun, new, and different. This year, we will be exploring a crop that can be marketed different ways depending on the variety.

Simply email Jayd to sign up [jroberts41@unl.edu](mailto:jroberts41@unl.edu) or sign up at this google link (**Feb. 26 DEADLINE**):  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aNAfqZdtUpZZnnPGiDfcVC\\_ia62Jf4Implh0xkd2HZI/edit?](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aNAfqZdtUpZZnnPGiDfcVC_ia62Jf4Implh0xkd2HZI/edit?usp=sharing)

[usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aNAfqZdtUpZZnnPGiDfcVC_ia62Jf4Implh0xkd2HZI/edit?usp=sharing)

Cost is \$2/packet.

Members are encouraged to enroll for Agronomy project through 4-H Online.

Additional Resources can be found here:

<https://cropwatch.unl.edu/sites/unl.edu.ianr.extension.cropwatch/files/media/file/2025-Special-Agronomy-Project-Sunflowers.pdf>

## 2025 SPECIAL AGRONOMY PROJECT

The banner features a green top section with the Nebraska Extension logo and the text "Special Agronomy Project" and the website "go.unl.edu/specialagronomy". Below this is a blue section with the text "Enroll by contacting your local extension office." and "2025: Sunflowers". The bottom section shows a vibrant field of yellow sunflowers under a blue sky.



The 2025 What's the Buzz? season of the Nebraska State 4-H Camp will share the importance of pollinators in Nebraska- why they're important, how they impact agriculture, and what youth can do in their own communities to support the various native pollinators we have in Nebraska. From bees and butterflies to hummingbirds and bats- it's going to be a week full of learning and fun!

The Nebraska State 4-H Camp is returning to Chadron and Burwell for summer camp 2025! Youth new to camping can attend a shorter camp session designed to let them experience all the best parts of summer camp in a 3 day/2 night session. Choose from one of two 5 day/4 night sessions for youth 10-14 years old and returning this year is the Leaders in Training camp for high school youth 15-17 years old! Campers will focus on developing leadership skills with an opportunity to put those skills into practice by volunteering at one of our other camp sessions!

Registration is now OPEN! More information on sessions, dates, and the link to register can be found at [4h.unl.edu/camp](http://4h.unl.edu/camp).

WHAT'S THE BUZZ 2025



## 4-H CAMP 101

July 13-15, Burwell

## 4-H CAMP

June 22-26, Chadron  
July 17-21, Burwell

## LEADERS IN TRAINING

May 28-31, Burwell

APPLY FOR A  
SCHOLARSHIP TODAY  
[GO.UNLEDU/CAMPSCHOLARSHIP](http://GO.UNLEDU/CAMPSCHOLARSHIP)

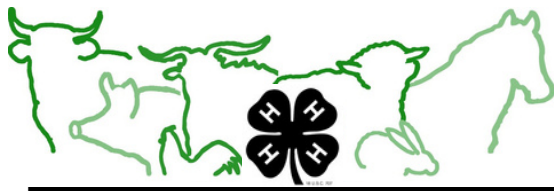


[4h.unl.edu/camp](http://4h.unl.edu/camp)



[4hcampst@unl.edu](mailto:4hcampst@unl.edu)





# 4-H Livestock News

## 2025 State 4-H Horse

2025 State Horse Show is at Fonner Park in Grand Island **July 12-16**.

More information for the horse program can be found at <https://4h.unl.edu/horse>

## 4-H Horse Stampede

The 4-H Horse Stampede has been scheduled for Saturday, March 29-30. Entries are due online by Feb. 28, 2025 <https://4h.unl.edu/horse-stampede>



## NCC Judging Contest:

The contest will be held in Kearney on Saturday, Feb. 15th with the entry deadline being Feb. 5th. All details and entry information can be found using the following link <https://nebraskaclassic.org/winter-edition/judging-contest.php>

## Farrowed and Owned Swine Cohort:

The Nebraska 4-H Farrowed and Owned Swine Cohort is an opportunity for 4-H members interested in learning more about the swine industry. Participants engage in learning opportunities throughout the year, gain knowledge related to their 4-H swine project, practice good record-keeping related to swine management and basic care, and exhibit their farrowed and owned swine project animal at the Nebraska State Fair.

Applications for the 2025 Cohort are open now through February 1st. Learn more at:

[4h.unl.edu/farrowed-owned](https://4h.unl.edu/farrowed-owned).



**7 AM** • Check-In (Expo Building)  
**8 AM** • Beef Livestock Judging Contest  
**NOON** • Lunch  
**1 PM** • Oral Reasons/Questions  
**5 PM** • Critique Classes  
Awards Banquet (Following Critique)  
College awards followed by youth

**BEEF ONLY CONTEST.** Open to 4H & FFA Youth, plus College Teams.  
Over \$5,000 in awards presented. \$1,000 UNL Animal Science Scholarship to the Top Senior Youth. **REGISTRATION DUE FEBRUARY 5.**

**NEW - ENTER ONLINE: [SHOWMAN.APP](https://showman.app)**

NCC | 3519 2nd Ave. | Kearney, NE | [NEBRASKACLASSIC.ORG](https://nebraskaclassic.org)  
O: 308-627-7309, Ronette: 308-627-6385

## State Fair Requirements

4-Hers who plan to exhibit at the 2025 Nebraska State Fair and/or the Aksarben Stock Show will be required to complete an **online nomination** with payment through Show Stock Manager at <https://showstockmgr.com/> and submit a DNA collector envelope with hair sample. This includes all 4-H and FFA breeding livestock, market livestock and feeder calves. Each nomination will be \$7.00 per animal. NOTE: this does not automatically enter the animal or exhibitor for the Nebraska State Fair. The exhibitor must still complete the separate online State Fair entry process.

DNA envelopes can be picked up at the extension office. Deadline is June 15.





# 4-H Livestock News

**YQCA** | **YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS**

## YQCA - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

Quality Assurance will be offered through the program YQCA, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals again this year - Deadline to complete is June 1, 2025.

Registering for QA will be online at <https://yqca.learnrow.io> using the Family 4-H Online login information for active youth. If you are in both 4-H and FFA, please register through the 4-H login. Be sure you select the 2025 training dates. Face-to-face sessions (1 hour) cost \$3 and online sessions cost \$12. There is a test out option online for ages 12 & 15 for \$36. Whether you are completing online or face-to-face certification all registrations and payments must be completed online prior to completion. Refunds can not be given if you cannot make the face-to-face session.

\*\*There is a PRE and POST 'test' in YQCA to complete PRIOR to the office marking youth COMPLETE!

Species include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, market rabbits, and poultry.

[yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org) there are help videos on this page that are very helpful on how to enroll/view certificates.

If you are a club leader, please reach out if you'd like to have this program come to your club! Contact Jayd at [jroberts41@unl.edu](mailto:jroberts41@unl.edu)

## YQCA Scholarship Opportunity

YQCA Scholarship Opportunity: The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is proud to announce a \$30,000 scholarship fund for 2025! This opportunity is available to youth who are certified in YQCA and are currently high school seniors or up to age 21, with plans to pursue a degree or trade in agriculture. Scholarship applications will open in January 2025 and close on February 17th. Recipients will be announced in May. For more details and to apply, visit YQCA - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals starting in January 2025. For questions, feel free to reach out to YQCA at [help@yqcaprogram.org](mailto:help@yqcaprogram.org).

**February - 24**

YQCA - in-person  
4-5 p.m.  
Nebraska Extension  
Office - Norfolk





# 4-H AT HOME IN MADISON COUNTY

The featured project for February...

Snow Tie Dye Fabric

\$6



TAKE HOME KITS!

DEVELOP A NEW  
SKILL!

HANDS ON  
LEARNING

ONCE A MONTH!

LIMITED # OF KITS  
WILL BE AVAILABLE!

PICK UP THE WEEK OF  
FEBRUARY 10

Add some extra colors to fabric with the help of the winter snow! Create a custom yard of fabric snow tie dye!

Open to all ages!

Register here or at the QR code below!

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

4-H Project Area: Beyond the Needle, class 4 - original designed fabric yardage

CONTACT US:

Nebraska Extension - Madison County

1305 S. 13th St.

Norfolk, NE 68701

402-370-4040

[jroberts41@unl.edu](mailto:jroberts41@unl.edu)

To learn more, visit us  
[madison.unl.edu](http://madison.unl.edu)





# 2025 CALENDAR

More activities and workshops will be added in the future!

## January

- 15- Office Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 17- End of the year Treasurer's Report Deadline
- 27- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm
- 25- State 4-H Indoor Archery Shoot- Grand Island

## February - Nebraska 4-H Month

- 3- Special Garden Seed Order Deadline
- 24- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm
- 26- Special Agronomy Seed Order Deadline

## March

- 1- Project Day, Madison County Fairgrounds, 9am-2pm
- 23- 4-H Horse Stampede

## April

- 4-5 - 4-H Council Vendor Fair, Madison County Fairgrounds
- TBA - Speech, PSA, & Presentation Contest, Extension Office
- 28- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

## May

- 26- Office Closed - Memorial Day

## June

- 15- County Fair Deadline Day!
- 15- Fashion Show Entry Deadline
- TBA- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm
  - Fair Clean Up, Madison County Fairgrounds, 6-8pm
- 19-20 - State Premier Communication Event - Lincoln
- 30- Bucket Calf Record Books Deadline

## July

- 4- Office Closed- Independence Day
- 7-13 Madison County Fair!
- 7- Judging Day (Static Exhibits) \*\*time TBD
- 8- Judging Day (Foods/Horticulture), Madison County Fairgrounds, 8am-noon
- 12-16- State Horse Show, Fonner Park, Grand Island

## August

- 11-19- State Fair Drop Off, Extension Office
- 18 - Extension Office open until 6:30pm for State Fair Exhibits
- 19 - 'Til NOON - State Fair Food and Horticulture Exhibit Deadline
- 22- State Fair Begins, Grand Island
- TBA- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm
- TBA- 4-H Achievement Ceremony Nomination and Application Deadline

## September

- 1- State Fair Ends
- 4- State Fair Projects Ready for families to pick up from Extension Office
- 22 - 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

## October-National 4-H Month

- 27- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

## November

- 27-28 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving

## December

- 25-Jan. 2 - Closed - Holiday Shutdown
- \*\*will return to office on Monday, Jan. 5