



4-H Family Newsletter

January 2026

Nebraska Extension in Madison County

1305 South 13th Street

Norfolk, NE 68701

Phone: 402-370-4040

Website: www.madison.unl.edu

Like Us on Facebook: 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.

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, Jayd, or Betty 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.

2026 4-H Theme



" READY TODAY, LEADING TOMORROW "

We are excited to kick off 2026 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.

SAVE THE DATE

**4-H Project Day 2025—
Saturday, February 28 at the
Madison County Fairgrounds
from 9am-2pm.**

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



4-H Leader and Volunteer Screening

- All 4-H volunteers who work directly with youth were required enroll as a 4-H volunteer at v2.4honline.com, complete the Nebraska 4-H volunteer screening process which will take approximately 5-10 minutes and the 4-H volunteer orientation. These are mandatory. Thank you for completing this process. 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 fee must be paid at the time of screening and re-screening through 4-HOnline. If you have any questions. Please contact the office.

**4-H Virtual
Volunteer Training:
New 4-H Club Leader Training**

January 12, 2026
6:30 p.m. CT

Participants will learn the benefits of serving in this role, how to plan 4-H experiences, ways to create an engaging environment and resources available to support club leaders.

N

Register to receive virtual connection.
Training will be recorded.
Register by scanning the QR code
or visit: <https://go.unl.edu/newclubleader>

4-H Leaders Reminder

2025 Treasurer's report is due by January 30, 2026. Please see mailing / email for your leader update letter! You can find a copy of the treasurers report at: <https://go.unl.edu/k0gn>.

Also visit: <https://4h.unl.edu/resources/club-leaders/> for more club resources.

Zoom in To CASNR

Want to see what it's like to be a Husker in the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources?

Join us for **Zoom In To CASNR**—a virtual hangout where you'll meet faculty, students, and staff. It's your chance to ask questions, get the inside scoop, and discover all the opportunities waiting for you at UNL.

Join us this school year at **7:00pm CST** on:



- September 29
- October 28
- November 24
- January 26
- February 23
- March 30
- April 27

Scan the code to sign up!



Norfolk/Madison- 2ft x 2ft Outdoor Barn Quilt Workshop

Learn tips & tricks for less touch up! Paint a barn quilt that lasts outdoors. ACM is used.

er

Join the Madison County 4-H program, part of the Nebraska Extension at the Madison County Fairgrounds to paint a 2ft. X2ft. outdoor barn quilt. Learn tips and tricks to paint a barn quilt that will last outdoors.

48+ designs and colors to choose from the day of class. We use ACM, a outdoor sign material for our barn quilts-not wood. Outdoor house paint is used and our process focuses on the longevity of the barn quilt.

You will need to bring an extension cord, hair dryer and yellow Delicate FrogTape (1.41 width is most versatile, you can get it at most hardware stores).

If you would like for us to prepare and bring additional non-class barn quilt blank(s) in other sizes or if you have any questions text or call 308-529-8992.



*Register
Now*

2026 SPECIAL GARDEN PROJECT

ALUMIA VANILLA CREAM MARIGOLD



Special Garden Project

4h.unl.edu/special-gardening-project

The focus of the 2026 project is the Aluma Vanilla Cream marigold. This marigold produces creamy, yellow flowers on compact plants. This variety not only has a unique color, but it also has a very long bloom time.

Simply email Jayd to sign up jroberts41@unl.edu or sign up at this google link (**FEB. 3 DEADLINE**):
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>

2026 SPECIAL AGRONOMY PROJECT

POPCORN!!

More information coming soon...

Simply email Jayd to sign up jroberts41@unl.edu or sign up at this google link (**Feb. 20 DEADLINE**):
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:



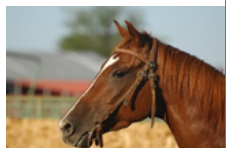


4-H Livestock News

4-H Horse Stampede

The 4-H Horse Stampede has been scheduled for Saturday, March 28-29. Entries are due end of February.

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



2026 State 4-H Horse

2026 State Horse Show is at Fonner Park in Grand Island **July 11-15**.

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

NCC Judging Contest:

The contest will be held in Kearney on Saturday, Feb. 14th 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>

NCC
The Classic
WINTER EDITION

JUDGING CONTEST
FEBRUARY 14
BUFFALO CO. FAIRGROUNDS • KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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.

ENTER ONLINE TODAY!

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

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

Farrowed and Owned Swine Cohort:

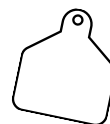
The Nebraska 4-H Farrowed and Owned Swine Cohort is an opportunity for 4-H members interested in learning more about the swine industry. Participants engage in learning opportunities throughout the year, gain knowledge related to their 4-H swine project, practice good record-keeping related to swine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

Applications for the 2026 Cohort are open now through January 30th. Learn more at:

4h.unl.edu/farrowed-owned.



Nebraska State Fair Requirements



4-Hers who plan to exhibit at the 2026 Nebraska State Fair 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. ***This year Aksarben and State Fair will have SEPERATE DNA envelopes.***

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**

Quality Assurance will be offered through the program YQCA, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals again this year - This is a state REQUIREMENT to be finished BEFORE county fair show.

Registering for QA will be online at <https://yqca.learngrow.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 2026 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. (You may still register AFTER you attend a training as well - just have to scroll to way bottom to register past the date it was given to find it.)

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

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

If you need help they have great help videos:

when you login: more info > youth & parents > scroll down to assistance

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@nebraska.edu

Fri., February 13th

YQCA - in-person
11 - noon
Nebraska Extension
Office - Norfolk

**In-Person
Opportunity**

Mon., April 6th

YQCA - in-person
11 - noon
Nebraska Extension
Office - Norfolk



2025 CALENDAR

More activities and workshops will be added in the future!
Dates subject to change.

January

- 19- Office Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 30 - End of the year Treasurer's Report Deadline
- 24- State 4-H Indoor Archery Shoot- Grand Island
- 26- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

February - Nebraska 4-H Month

- 13 - YQCA, Extension Office, 11am
- 24- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm
- 20- Special Agronomy Seed Order Deadline
- 20- Special Garden Seed Order Deadline
- 28- 4-H Project Day, Madison Co. Fairgrounds, 9-12

March

- 27-28 4-H Council Vendor Fair
- 28-29- 4-H Horse Stampede, Madison Co. Fairgrounds

April

- 6 - YQCA, Extension Office, 11am
- 11 - Cat workshop, AM - Dog workshop, PM
- 21- Speech, PSA, & Presentation Contest, Extension Office
- 28- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

May

- 25- Office Closed - Memorial Day
- 27-29 - PASE (premier animal science event, UNL East Campus)

June

- 15- County Fair Deadline Day!**
- 15- Fashion Show Entry Deadline
- 16-17 - State Premier Communication Event - Lincoln
- 20- Barn Quilt Workshop, Madison Co. Fairgrounds
- 25- 4-H Council Meeting & Fair Clean Up, Madison County Fairgrounds, 6-8pm
- 26- Bucket Calf Record Books Deadline

July

- 3- Office Closed- Independence Day
- 6-12 Madison County Fair!
- 6- Judging Day (Static Exhibits), 8-noon
- 7- Judging Day (Foods/Horticulture), Madison County Fairgrounds, 8am-noon
- 11- Public Fashion Show, Indoor Arena, (3pm or after)
- 11-16- State Horse Show, Fonner Park, Grand Island

August

- 17-25- State Fair Drop Off, Extension Office
- 24 - Extension Office open until 6:30pm for State Fair Exhibit including horticulture, floriculture and foods.
- 26- State Fair Judging Day, Grand Island
- 28- State Fair Begins, Grand Island
- TBA- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm
- TBA- 4-H Achievement Ceremony Nomination and Application Deadline

September

- 7- State Fair Ends
- 9- State Fair Projects Ready for families to pick up from Extension Office
- 28 - 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

October-National 4-H Month

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

November

- 26-27 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving

December

- 24-Jan. 1 - Closed - Holiday Shutdown
- **will return to office on Monday, Jan. 4