



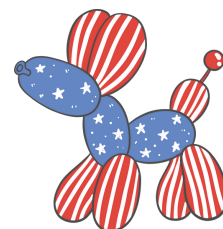
4-H Family Newsletter

July / Aug 2025

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



Congratulations

To all 4-H Exhibitors, Parents, Volunteers, and Leaders,

**The Madison County Fair is truly the “Best Week in July!”
Memories are made, friendships are formed, achievements are
celebrated, hard work is seen throughout all areas,
and lots of lessons are learned!**

**Congratulations to each and every one of you! Thank you for
being a part of the 4-H program, sharing your exhibits at the
fair, and for celebrating all of your accomplishments!**

Save the Date! Madison County Fair for 2026 are July 6-12.

Sincerely, Sarah, Jayd, Betty, Wayne, Michelle, Pam, Leo, Erin and Myranda



4-H Special Edition Articles - 50th Anniversary

Each year, the *Norfolk Daily News* prints a 4-H Special Edition to feature 4-H youth from area counties. The 2025 theme is “Beyond Ready with 4-H”. This will be published in October during National 4-H Week.

Many of you received an invitation to write an article. **You will find this letter attached to your exhibitor card on your exhibit.** This year as we celebrate the 50th anniversary, ALL ARE INVITED TO SHARE YOUR STORY! The article should be short, no longer than one page double-spaced. The purpose of your article is to encourage others to join 4-H and to tell them about your special project! Please submit at least one photo to accompany



Deadline is Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

Email your story to: Vickie Hrabanek at vhrabanek@norfolkdailynews.com or

Sarah Polacek at spolacek2@unl.edu with the subject line stating: 4-H Special Edition 2025.

Congratulations to the 2025-2026 4-H Council Members!

The Madison County 4-H Council was founded in approximately 1976. Its mission is to support the Madison County Extension staff and the Madison County 4-H program by promoting, planning, and implementing various activities relevant to the 4-H program in Madison County.

Adult Members

Jami Brandl

Jami Koenig

Evan Unkel

Christy Owen

Katie Ferguson

Megan Coover

Donna Miller

Katrina Brandl

Jodi Hoffmann

Youth Members

Kaitlin Koenig

Knox Wolff

Lillian Polacek

Annika Ferguson

Aria Hoehne



The upcoming meeting is scheduled for August 25 at 7:00 PM, taking place at the Extension office. Members from this year and last year are to attend. Please keep an eye on your mail for further details.

2025 Nebraska State Fair Information



Livestock and Contest Entries

DEADLINE APPROACHING! All youth participating in a 4-H contest or exhibiting 4-H livestock or dogs must complete the entry process by **Sunday, August 10, at 8:00 p.m. CST.** Get started at: statefair.org/ag-competitions/4-h-ffa-exhibitors/.

DEADLINE

AUGUST 10 AT 8PM CT

Static State Fair Projects

Static Exhibits: Bring non-perishable exhibits to the Extension Office between August 11-18. The Extension Office will be open on MONDAY, AUGUST 18 until 6:30 p.m. for your convenience.

Food and Horticulture Exhibits: Must be to the Extension Office by NOON on TUESDAY, AUGUST 19. No exhibits will be accepted after 12:00 p.m.

Transportation of large exhibits will be provided by Farmers Pride. Large exhibits must be in the Office by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 18 to allow time to pack the truck.

Post-fair Project Pick Up: Wednesday, September 3.

Exhibitors: Refer to the purple sheet you received with information about preparing and packaging your projects. Changes suggested by the judge can be made prior to the State Fair. Contact Sarah or Jayd with questions at 402-370-4040.

State Fair Ticket Information

Static Exhibitor Discount Tickets

- Back by popular demand! 4-H static exhibitor families are able to order discount passes directly from the Nebraska State Fair! Orders can be placed now until 11:59pm on August 21 CT and can be placed using the following link and password: 20254H
- Please remember the opportunity to order these discounted tickets is for static exhibitors and their families only. The misuse of this resource may eliminate this opportunity in the future, so please encourage your families not to share this link.

Please note:

- We can track who ordered tickets and match it with their 4-H participation. Discount tickets will not be available through the county offices.
- All livestock exhibitors and in-person event exhibitors (contests, fashion show, presentations, and robotics showcase) will still be able to order discounted tickets when they enter in ShoWorks for State Fair. This process has not changed for those exhibitors coming to the fair.
- The Nebraska State Fair also has ticket options available to the general public. You can share the following link with any 4-H families and stakeholders who are planning to go to the fair:

Please contact Jill Goedeken (jgoedeken2@unl.edu) with any questions.

4-H Day at the Nebraska State Fair - Sunday, August 24

You are invited to join 4-H youth, families, alumni, and friends from across Nebraska on Sunday, August 24, for the 2025 4-H Day at the Nebraska State Fair!

A special celebration will take place from 1-3pm CT in the Pump & Pantry Pit (north of the Horse Barns) to celebrate the impact of the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. Enjoy delicious UNL Dairy Store ice cream, 'Showcase Your Fair Face' at the 4-H photo booth, and be part of the launch of "Beyond Ready" – Nebraska 4-H's commitment to help youth in our state to be ready for life and work after high school. Plus, at 2:30pm, we will be honoring amazing 4-H volunteers who make the 4-H program happen.

Don't miss out! Discounted gate passes can be purchased at <https://go.unl.edu/2025nsf4hdaypasses>. Bring your family and be a part of the excitement at 2025 4-H Day at the Nebraska State Fair! We can't wait to celebrate with YOU!



Nebraska State Fair Exhibitor T-Shirts

NEW for 2025! 4-H families have the opportunity to purchase 4-H exhibitor shirts. Livestock exhibitor families may want to purchase an additional shirt, and 4-H static exhibitors have the opportunity to purchase a shirt for the first time!

Orders can be placed online at <https://go.unl.edu/2025nsf4htshirts> and are due August 10, 2025. No on-site purchase of shirts will be available. Only pick-up of pre-ordered shirts will be available. Be sure to choose your pick-up location and note the dates and times available for pick-up at each location. Any shirts not picked up during these times will be distributed to county staff members following the Nebraska State Fair. Signature will be required when picking up pre-ordered shirts.

4-H Static Office (4-H/FFA Fieldhouse):

- August 22: 5:00 – 8:00 pm
- August 23: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- August 24: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Livestock Office (West End of Five Points Bank Arena)

- August 21: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm
- August 22: 8:00 – 8:00 pm
- August 23: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
- August 24: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm



Please contact Jill Goedeken (jgoedeken2@unl.edu) with any questions.

You are invited to the 2025 4-H Achievement Ceremony



When: Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Madison County Fairgrounds, Madison, NE

***Award Application Deadline:** August 29, 2025**

For the application form or to nominate an exceptional 4-H member or volunteer, please refer to the attached document! Everyone is welcome to submit a nomination!

Either pick up an award form at the Extension Office, print off the attached document, or fill out the form online at <https://forms.gle/VMAX3wBJTpKvBH4j6>

Awards Applications and Nominations

The following awards require nominations from 4-H members, leaders, or volunteers:

- Outstanding 4-H Member
- 4-H Rookie Award
- Outstanding 4-H Alumni
- “Above and Beyond” Award
- Outstanding 4-H Leader
- “I Believe in You” Award
- Heart of 4-H Award
- *NEW!* Legacy Award—recognize a grandparent or special person who has continued their involvement in the 4-H program by helping out.
- Oswald Family “Spirit of 4-H” Award
- Patty Nelson “Making the Best Better” Memorial Award

Youth or clubs applying for the following awards must complete an application process:

- Annual Achievement Application <https://4h.unl.edu/achievement-application>
- Diamond Clover <https://4h.unl.edu/diamond-clover>
- 4-H Clubs of Excellence <https://4h.unl.edu/clubs-excellence>
- Youth in Action Pillar Award Areas <https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-youth-in-action-awards/#!application>

The following awards are earned through projects, years of service, and achievements:

- State Fashion Show Pin
- Leaders Award (10+ years)
- 4-H Years of Membership Pins (5, 8, 10, 12, 13)



Need Help with filling out your Annual Achievement Applications, nominations or other award areas, please contact Sarah or Jayd. We are happy to help!

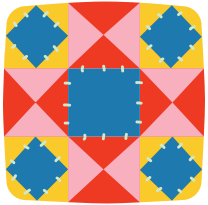
2024 Madison County 4-H Survey Open

Do you have thoughts and ideas from our 2025 Madison County Fair or workshop ideas you would like to see offered throughout this next 4-H year! Please complete the post-fair survey, follow the link below:

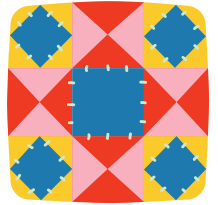
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgIeh8zmmsmYFu8Fub5LfPZkZAu32YwZBa_FiqEzhspRfIlg/viewform?usp=pp_url

Thank you to everyone for the helpful feedback so far!

TAKE SURVEY



Block of the Month



New for this year's 4-H take home kits we are going to introduce a quilt block a month! Kick off the fall months by picking up a kit that includes the fabric and directions for each block. As youth continue through the year, they will have a completed quilt top in time for them to exhibit at the 2026 Madison County Fair.

If you do not own a sewing machine, we can make arrangements at the office to borrow one.

Please express your interest below - we are not confirmed with price
or official size of quilt.

<https://forms.gle/Le1yMQKvh3DSZakx5>



SAVE THE DATE

Madison County Fair

July 6 - 12, 2026





4-H Livestock News

Herdsmanship Results - 2025

Clubs with 9 animals or more.

~Purple

1st place - The Wranglers 4-H Club

2nd place – Deer Creek 4-H Club

3rd place – Elkhorn Valley 4-H Club (\$30)

~Blue (\$20.00)

High Caliber 4-H Club

Lucky Clovers 4-H Club

Pioneers 4-H Club

Newman Huskers 4-H Club

~Red (\$15.00)

Needles & Knives 4-H Club

Young Achievers 4-H Club

Clubs Under 9 Animals

~Purple

1st place - Clover Critters 4-H Club

2nd place – Mane Event 4-H Club

Independent Herdsmanship Results

~Purple

Hansen

Zoucha

Luebe

Stoltz

Sanne

Wolken

Showalter

~Blue

Reichmuth

Anderson

Lunz

Bowers

Wedekind

Thank you to all clubs and independent members who took pride in their animal areas during the fair! Premium money is available for pick up at the Extension Office.

4-H Livestock Boosters

Each exhibitor who participated in a showmanship class will receive a Livestock Booster premium. This includes large and small animals and horses. Bonus premiums will be awarded; please watch your email for more information. To receive your premium, you must complete a thank you and submit it to the Extension Office by August 16. (See next page of this newsletter for a list of Livestock Booster sponsors.)



Thank you to our Madison County Fair Sponsors and Donors!

We encourage you to share your gratitude with the following businesses for their generosity!

Award Banners

Madison County Vet Clinic
802 W 8th St.
Madison, NE 68748

Trophies, Ribbons, Premiums, and Much More!

Madison County Ag Society
401 W. 6th St.
Madison, NE 68748

Exhibitor T-shirt Sponsors

AKRS John Deere
3303 W. Norfolk Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701

Farmer Credit Services
207 N 34th St
Norfolk, NE 68701

MADISON COUNTY Livestock Boosters



RING OF CHAMPIONS \$1,000+

AKRS EQUIPMENT
ELKHORN VALLEY BANK
FARMERS CO-OP ASSOCIATION -LINDSAY
NUCOR/VULCRAFT/VERCO GROUP
REIGLE CATTLE COMPANY
SANDRAMERE SEED AND SUPPLY CO
PLATTE VALLEY EQUIPMENT
MADISON COUNTY AG SOCIETY
GRAHAM TIRE

PURPLE RIBBON \$500+

ADM
AGRI-CITY INSURANCE
AURORA COOP
CITIZENS STATE BANK
BIG IRON REALTY
COLUMBUS SALES PAVILION
FARM CREDIT SERVICE of AMERICA
FARMERS PRIDE
LINDSAY CORPORATION
MADISON COUNTY VETERINARY CLINIC
NORFOLK IRON AND METAL
NORTHEAST MACHINE
BASF-JODY JENSEN
VALENT-LUKE BALDRIDGE
DUSTY KORTH & ASSOCIATES
JE MEURET GRAIN CO
APACHE PALCO HENKE BUFFALO
OSCHNER GRAIN

BLUE RIBBON \$250+

BEN AND KEVIN NELSON LG SEED SALES
BANK OF THE VALLEY
CARGILL
CLS VETERINARY
COE CATTLE COMPANY
CVA
CORNERSTONE BANK
BANK OF LINDSAY
AGREX INC- ENOLA
KEN'S TRAILER SALES & REPAIR
DINKEL IMPLEMENT
HEARTLAND VET CLINIC
CIE NORFOLK GNS INC
CORTEVA - EMMA ERWIN
PINNACLE BANK

RED RIBBON \$100+

BATTLE CREEK STATE BANK
BD AG
BENSON AG
MADISON COUNTY BANK
MEAD LUMBER COMPANY
BEAVER CREEK VETERINARY
SERVICE PC
ELKHORN FEED CENTER
DALE'S FLYING SERVICE
5M PERFORMANCE HORSES
NK SEEDS-TOM GOOD
MADISON COUNTY
FARM BUREAU

LIVESTOCK DIGITAL
-JASON AND STACEY HANSEN
NMC-EDDIE BOMAR
MCMILL CPA PC
SUMMIT AG
TROY AND KARLA PATZEL
VIT-A-MEN
WONDERCHECK INC
RYAN AND NICOLE MEAD
INSURANCE 365
TRUE BLUE ELECTRIC

Thank You To Our Generous Sponsors

Additional Sponsorships -

- Bucket Calf T-shirts - Walsmley Hay LLC and Fore-Quarters Feedlot
- Cloverbud Tokens-- Amen Dairy LLC
- Stall Cards -- Farm Credit Services
- Bucket Calf Show Brushes and Cloverbud Stick Horse Race -- Wolken Seed Company
- Overall Market Swine and Overall Market Beef -- Farmers Pride


**MADISON COUNTY
FARM BUREAU®**

**Intermediate
Showmanship Award -**
Sheep, Swine, Goat & Beef.



Calendar

August

- 13 4-H Special Edition Deadline
- 11-18 Drop Off State Fair Exhibits at Extension Office
- 18 Extension Office Open until 6:30 p.m. for State Fair Items
- 19 State Fair Food Exhibits due to office by NOON
- 24 4-H Day at the Nebraska State Fair
- 25 4-H Council Meeting 7pm.



August 22-September 1—Nebraska State Fair at Grand Island

September

- 2 Extension Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day State Fair Items r
- 3 State Fair items ready for Pick Up at Extension Office
- 14 4-H Achievement Ceremony - Madison County Fairgrounds 5pm
- 22 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7:00 p.m.

October

- 5-11 National 4-H Week!
- 27 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7 p.m.



Sarah Polacek

4-H Extension Educator

Jayd Krueger

4-H Extension Assistant

Leonardo Gonzalez

4-H Extension Educator