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Hamilton County 4-H Website: <https://hamilton.unl.edu> Nebraska 4-H Website: <https://4h.unl.edu>

## Important Dates

- March 8** - County BB Gun Competition
- March 8** - Beef Weigh-In
- March 9** - 4-H Council Meeting
- March 10** - Inventure Day
- March 29** - Air Rifle/Pistol Contest
- April 6** - Premeir Communication Contest

## 2026 LIVESTOCK WEIGH-IN DATES

**BEEF WEIGH-IN**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2026  
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
Central City Vet Clinic  
(1701 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Central City, NE)

**BEEF WEIGH-IN HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. DUE TO SCALE TROUBLES!**

WILL ALSO INCLUDE DNA TESTING FOR STATE FAIR!  
\*NEW IN 2026 - NE STATE FAIR AND AKSARBEN DNA TESTING ARE SEPERATE PROCESSES

**EXTENSION**  
Hamilton County

QUESTIONS? CALL OUR OFFICE AT 402-694-6174

## Happy Birthday!

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Landon S   | Leah O      |
| Claire H   | Gabby C     |
| Emma H     | Moriah N    |
| Stella H   | Alex A      |
| Oaklynd E  | Harrison H  |
| Lynnex E   | Josephine H |
| Harrison W | Kylie T     |
| Cody P     | Kyler E     |
| Melori B   | Noah D      |
| Brexley K  | Alexandra D |
| Jaxton K   | Delaney W   |
| Emmet B    | Adley J     |
| Quinnley S | Jacob N     |
| Sawyer D   |             |

**IMPORTANT 2026 BEEF WEIGH-IN DATE** - Due to scale troubles, beef weigh in has been **POSTPONED** to **Sunday, March 8th** from **1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** at the **Central City Vet Clinic**.  
\*Trailers must be in line by 3:15 p.m. to be weighed.



## 2026 Special Garden Project

The Special Garden Project is open to all youth of 4-H age and will give them the opportunity to learn about growing, harvesting, and exhibiting this unique flower. The Special Garden Project lets 4-H members try their had at growing unusual vegetables, flowers, and herbs. The 2026 plant will be the **ALUMNIA VANILLA CREAM MARIGOLD**.





In August of 2025, the Hamilton County Commissioners approved a new Extension Office to be built on the Hamilton County Fairgrounds. We are excited to show you the progress and have you follow along. This new building will allow us so many more opportunities to continue growing our incredible 4-H program!



## Spring Rabbit Show

The 4-H Spring Rabbit Show will be held on **Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m.** at the **Sandhills Global Event Center - South Hall**. Open to all youth ages 8-18, with a Clover Kid class for youth ages 5-7. This is a great opportunity for youth to connect with other 4-Her's about the rabbit 4-H project, and to learn and practice showmanship. Rabbit quiz and breed identification contests are free for youth to enter! Knowledge contests are also open to adults for a minimal fee. To get more information, visit <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/rabbitspring-show>. Questions? Contact Kate Pulec at [kpulec3@unl.edu](mailto:kpulec3@unl.edu) or 402-441-7180.

**2026 HAMILTON COUNTY 4-H BROILER PROJECT**

**4-H Broiler Project -**

1. All birds for this specific project will come from the same hatchery and must be purchased through the Hamilton County Extension Office.
2. Minimum order is 5 birds per exhibitor or family.

**G670-014 Pen of Three Broilers**

To order, scan the QR Code or visit <https://go.unl.edu/26broilers>

**\$2.80/bird - price may slightly vary depending on how many are ordered.**

**\*Orders will close on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at noon!**

Hamilton County Extension Office | 402-694-6174 | 1111 13<sup>th</sup> Street, STE 6, Aurora, NE 68818

## 4-H Broiler Project

Orders are now open for the 2026 4-H Broiler Project featuring Cornish Cross broilers - a fast-growing meat bird that matures in just 6-8 weeks. Birds must be ordered through the Hamilton County Extension Office, with a minimum of 5 birds per exhibitor or family. Cost is \$2.80/bird (price may vary slightly). Orders close Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at NOON.

<https://go.unl.edu/26broilers>

## Communications Contest

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Hamilton County Communications Contest - April 6th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ag Building (Hamilton County Fairgrounds). To register, visit <https://go.unl.edu/26hccom> or scan the QR code.

Public Service Announcements and Video Communications need to be emailed to [bbonifas4@unl.edu](mailto:bbonifas4@unl.edu) by Noon on Monday, April 6th.

Additional information or resources may be found at <https://4h.unl.edu/premier-communication-event-contests>



# 4-H Club Updates

## Shooting Sports

There will be Air Rifle and Air Pistol practices on  
March 15th and March 22nd.

The Air Rifle and Air Pistol fair competition will be  
on March 29th at 2 pm with a 1:30 check-in.

BB Gun has practice March 2nd.

The BB Gun fair competition will be on March 8th  
at 2 pm with 1:30 check-in.

Outdoor Skills will follow the BB competition with  
a Bow Hunter presentation approximately 4:00 -  
4:30 pm.

First shooter practice for .22 rifle and .22 pistol will  
be on March 23rd at 5 pm. Youth must be 10 years  
of age and had a year of BB or Air Rifle to be  
eligible. Practices will be every Monday evening for  
both disciplines.

*Christi Aycock*  
*Club President*

# Spring Break Terrarium Workshop

March 12<sup>th</sup> or March 19<sup>th</sup>

9:30 AM -11:30 AM

Hamilton County Fairgrounds 4-H Building

Get hands-on with plants in this fun 4-H workshop where participants learn how to design and build their own terrarium. Youth will explore basic plant needs, soil layers, and care techniques while creating a mini ecosystem to take home and grow.



Cost: \$25

Registration is DUE by March 9th.  
Payment can be made by exact cash  
or check made out to UNL and is due  
prior to the workshop.

Minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10  
Participants Per Class

To Register, scan the QR Code or visit  
<https://go.unl.edu/hamcoterrariums>



4-H aged Youth  
Must be enrolled  
in 4-H for the year  
to attend. To enroll visit  
[4-Honline.com](http://4-Honline.com)

Questions? Contact the Extension  
Office at 402-694-6174



This activity is funded through Nebraska Extension-Hamilton County IIII 13th St Ste 6, Aurora NE. The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

**bomgaars**  
What You Need ... When You Need It®

**SUNGLO**



# BOMGAARS VIRTUAL SHOW EVENT

Featuring: Sunglo® Feed & Supplements

## Topics include:

Animal Selection, Feed and Management,  
Fitting/Hair Care, Showmanship

## Event Details:

Date: February 25th

Time: 6:30–8:00 PM CST

Please register in order to  
receive your Sunglo® gift package!



Scan here to register:



**Gift package included  
for those that attend!**

Must attend the event to receive the gift package



**2026 4-H State Fair Animal Nomination/Identification Requirements**

<b>Project Area</b>	<b>Nomination Requirements</b>	<b>Nomination Deadline</b>	<b>Entry Deadline</b>
	EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Market Beef*	Tattoo or identification type that is accepted by the breed association***, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Registered Breeding Beef	Tattoo OR EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Commercial Breeding Beef	EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Feeder Calf	EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Market Swine*	EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Breeding Swine*	Scrapie Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Market Sheep	Scrapie Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Breeding Sheep	Scrapie Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Market Goats	Scrapie Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Breeding Goats	No nomination required. Rabbits will be required to have an ear tattoo by the show entry deadline.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Rabbits & Poultry	No nomination required. Refer to the Nebraska State Fair Open Class Entry Book for ID requirements.	-----	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Dairy Cattle		-----	Refer to the Nebraska State Fair website.

\*Review individual fairbooks for registered animal requirements as there are additional items required to be exhibited in a breed class at State Fair, but not to be nominated.

\*\*The Nomination Deadline is when all tagging is to be finished, animal information should be submitted online via the Show Stock Manager database, DNA collected and complete DNA Envelopes should be in the possession of the County Extension Offices.

\*\*\*Registered heifer identification must correspond with the registration paper.

## Family Responsibilities:

1. Exhibitors will be required to enroll in 4-H by the June 15 statewide enrollment deadline.
2. Exhibitors will review their species fair books.
3. Exhibitors showing market and/or breeding beef, feeder calves, market and/or breeding swine, market and/or breeding sheep or market and/or breeding goats at State Fair must have assigned and sealed official DNA envelope with hair samples for DNA verification. **Every animal nomination (this includes all breeding animals and feeder calves) will require a DNA submission.** DNA must be returned into their county office and have completed the online nomination with payment in *Show Stock Manager* by June 15. Any animal carrying an 840 EID tag will require the exhibitor to obtain a Premises ID. Contact the local Extension Office for details. (It is recommended that you make a copy or photograph of the completed envelope you turn into your county.)
4. Exhibitors will be required to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certificate by August 10.
5. Exhibitors will confirm that the ear tattoo and/or identification tag matches the animal nomination submitted by June 15 for confirmation of legibility and/or accuracy.
6. Exhibitors will notify the County Extension Staff of any retags that may occur up to time of check-in at the State Fair.
7. Exhibitors will select which animal nomination they have chosen to show at State Fair on the State Fair entry website by August 10. All nominated and validated animals will be automatically listed as a choice option for entry registration.
8. Exhibitors will be required to bring the breed registration association paperwork to check-in at State Fair for animals wanting to show in a breed class. **The registration papers must show the exhibitor's name or a co-owner who is an immediate member of the exhibitor's family and is listed with the online nomination in Show Stock Manager. Family farm or ranch names will not be accepted.**

## County Staff Responsibilities:

1. Submit an 840 EID tag order for beef and swine animal projects.
2. Schedule and publish weigh-in and/or tagging dates if offered in your county.
3. Request, distribute and collect DNA collectors for families. 840 EID tags should not be distributed without the premise ID being recorded in 4H Online. It is optional but recommended to record on the DNA envelope.
4. Inform families of the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training options available to them (in person and online).
5. Collect all beef, swine, lamb, and goat DNA envelopes by June 15. Families will submit payment online in *Show Stock Manager*. Copy all DNA envelopes for your county records and mail all completed DNA envelopes to the Nebraska State Fair office by **June 22**.
6. Remind families to confirm that the ear tattoo and/or identification tag matches the animal nomination submitted by June 15 for confirmation of legibility and/or accuracy.
7. Collect Premises ID numbers from exhibitors and input those into 4H Online.
8. Review and validate all online livestock nominations in *Show Stock Manager* for each exhibitor by **July 1**.
9. Input nomination edits in to Show Stock Manager for your families. Edits will be corrected by the Show Coordinator. For retags, directly notify Brandy Schulze [bschulze@unl.edu](mailto:bschulze@unl.edu) and/or input the change in *Show Stock Manager*.
10. Inform families that all nominations have been validated and are available for entry at the Nebraska State Fair entry website <https://www.statefair.org/> when the system is open.

## Additional Information

- County offices can accept paper ID sheets for their own record keeping but these **will not be accepted as a form of identification for State Fair**.
- There are entry limits for each of the individual species. Exhibitors cannot exhibit more than the following for each species to State Fair: Beef (5), Swine (6), Sheep (4), Goat (4), Poultry (6), Rabbit (6).