

BUFFALO COUNTY 4-H



February 2024

Nebraska Extension-Buffalo County 1400 E. 34th St. Kearney, NE 68847 (308)-236-1235 buffalo.unl.edu

CALENDAR

February - 4-H Month

- 6 Intro to Nebraska Birds – Homeschooled youth
- 12 Deadline to sign up for Special Garden Project
- 13 Cupid Crew Rose Pick-up Day
- 13 Horse PAT meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 13 FCS/SET PAT meeting 7 p.m.
- 13 Livestock/Small Animal PAT meeting 7 p.m.
- 13 Shooting Sports PAT meeting 7 p.m.
- 14 Cupid Crew Rose Delivery Day
- 19 Extension office closed - President's Day
- 21 BRAG meeting
- 24 4-H Beef Weigh In @ Elm Creek
- 27 4-H Council meeting

March

- 1 Buffalo County 4-H Scholarship applications due
- 2 Buffalo Co. Shooting Sports annual pancake fundraiser
- 11-12 Buffalo County Shooting Sports Fair Ribbon Shoot
- 13 BRAG meeting
- 19 Buffalo Co. Shooting Sports Potluck & Awards Banquet
- 25 4-H Council meeting



Happy Valentine's Day!

CELEBRATE Nebraska 4-H Month

ALL MONTH: 4-H PROJECT FEATURES

- Let us help you get started with projects for the Buffalo County Fair by following us on Facebook [@BuffaloCountyNebraska4H!](#) We will post how-to videos featuring projects you can do right away!

ALL MONTH: PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST - WIN 4-H SWAG

- Watch Buffalo County 4-H Facebook/Instagram for weekly photo contest themes. For more information, visit <https://4h.unl.edu/photography-showcase>.

FEBRUARY 1 SPIRIT DAY

- Wear green, the 4-H emblem, or your favorite 4-H T-shirt
- Share your 4-H spirit on social media using #NE4HMonth, #iBelong, and #Opportunity4All

FEB. 8 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

- Send handwritten thank you notes, treats or goody bags to your club and project leaders
- Shout out your club and project leaders on social media using #NE4HMonth
- Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer for a Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Recognition Award by visiting <https://4h.unl.edu/volunteer-recognition>

FEB. 9 DEADLINE TO RESERVE ROSES

SERVICE PROJECT: BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY!

This year's Service Project is to be part of the Cupid Crew! Deliver roses to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, churches, grandparents, hospitals, shelters, etc. on Valentine's Day!

Supplies are limited so don't delay - **reserve your roses by Friday, Feb. 9.**

NOTE: ROSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE!

HOW: Call Buffalo County Extension at 308-236-1235 to reserve your roses - be prepared to tell us how many needed and where you will be distributing them.

WHEN: Pick up at Buffalo County Extension on Tuesday, February 13 for distribution on Wednesday, February 14

NOTE: Cupids can work as individuals or as a club!

FEB. 13 ROSE PICKUP/FEB. 14 ROSE DELIVERY

FEB. 15 4-H SPONSOR APPRECIATION DAY

- Contact the Buffalo County Extension to get contact information for a 4-H donor/sponsor and send them a thank you note

FEB. 22 4-H GIVE BACK/COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

- Coordinate your own service project. For ideas, visit <https://4h.unl.edu/civic-engagement>

FEB. 29 LEAP INTO 4-H DAY

- Enroll in 4-H for 2024 at <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>



Honor a Panhandle-grown crop

2024 Special Agronomy Project is 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. 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 in the Special Agronomy Project through 4-H Online by selecting Agronomy. Contact the Buffalo County Extension to order your seeds. The cost of the project is \$1.00.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: FEBRUARY 12

Add beauty to your garden and your plate

2024 Special Garden Project is Princess of India Nasturtium



The Special Garden Project is a way to offer Nebraska youth the chance to grow unusual and fun projects in their gardens. The 2024 Special Garden Project will focus on Princess of India Nasturtium. This Victorian-era heirloom flower can be grown in a variety of ways including in containers. It provides a splash of color from its scarlet flowers and much of the plant can be eaten.

When enrolling youth in 4-H, please select Horticulture/Plant Science as the project area for the Special Garden Project. Please call 308-236-1235 to sign up and to get your seeds ordered. Seeds will be around 50 cents per packet. Educational materials and a growing newsletter will be given to all participants when seeds are picked up.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: FEBRUARY 12

NCC Livestock Judging Contest is Feb. 17



Entry deadline is February 5. The contest will be held in Kearney at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds. For more information and to register, please visit <https://nebraskaclassic.org/winter-edition/judging-contest.php>.

Buffalo Co. beef weigh-in set

To be eligible for the Rate of Gain contest, your market beef must be weighed at an official 4-H weigh-in at any county 4-H weigh-in day. **If you plan to attend another county's weigh-in, you must pick up an ID sheet and purchase tags from the Buffalo County Extension before going.** Anyone showing at State Fair will need to pull DNA. If you don't wish to participate in the Rate of Gain contest, you do not need to attend a weigh in. You may pick up your ear tags from the Extension office any time.

Buffalo County Weigh-In

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, February 24, 2024

Where: M&M Feeders at Elm Creek

Tags: \$3 each

This date is subject to change.

Time to enroll in 2023-24 4-H year All youth and volunteers need to register

The 4-H enrollment site is now open for returning 4-H members, volunteers and to newcomers who have not yet joined. Shooting sports members must be enrolled in 4-H to practice and participate. Please visit <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> to enroll. **To complete the enrollment process, you must select the 'pay by check' option regardless of your chosen payment method and you must select 'submit' at the end of the process.** If you choose to pay by cash or check, just drop your payment off at the Extension office or mail to 1400 E. 34th St. Kearney, NE 68847. If you wish to pay online by debit/credit card, you can visit the Buffalo County payment site at <https://buffalo-county-4-h-council.square.site/>.



When you enroll in 4-H, please use an email that you check regularly as this will be how you will stay informed of what's happening in our program.

Attention: ALL Livestock Exhibitors



Training must be completed each year

All Livestock Exhibitors in beef, dairy cattle, goats, sheep, swine and market poultry (including production turkeys) are required to complete YQCA training to be eligible to show at the Buffalo County Fair. To complete your training, visit www.yqcaprogram.org. Participants MUST do a pre-test and a post-test to complete the training and generate your certificate. The YQCA system will not prompt you to do the pre- and post- tests. Once your training is complete, please submit your certificate to the Extension office or via email to jenny.kreikemeier@unl.edu.

Changes for State Fair Livestock Exhibitors 8 is the new age of eligibility for 2024 Nebraska State Fair

Age of Eligibility

- The age of eligibility in 2024 is now 8 years of age before January 1 (of the current year) for all in-person events (livestock, contests, fashion shows)

Showmanship Age Divisions

- Junior Showmanship (ages 8 to 10 before January 1 of the current year)
- Intermediate Showmanship (ages 11 to 13 before January 1 of the current year)
- Senior Showmanship (ages 14 to 18 before January 1 of the current year)

Awards

- Exhibitors will receive awards for the Division Champions, Reserve Division Champions, Grand Champion Overall, Reserve Grand Champion Overall, and 3rd Overall. Only entries receiving a purple ribbon are eligible to receive champion and reserve awards.

Entry Limits

- A 4-H member may exhibit up to 5 beef, 4 sheep, 4 goats, 6 hogs, 6 rabbits and up to 6 live birds.

Individual Species

- Sheep: New Breed Class-All Hair Breeds
- Goat: Market goats will show in separate classes; Market Wethers and Market Does (until final selection)
- Swine: New Breed Classes-Tamworth and Landrace
- Rabbit: New Breed Classes-Blue Holicer and Czech Frosty
- Dog Skillathon Contest: Added a Junior Skillathon Division and rotated breed ID picture topics

Show Stock Manager

Show Stock Manager will be open on February 1 for families to begin nominating their State Fair livestock.

- <https://showstockmgr.com/>
- 2024 Step-by-Step Nomination Instructions: <https://4h.unl.edu/livestock-id>

***The livestock fairbooks are posted online at <https://4h.unl.edu/state-fair-livestock-exhibitor>

Interested in 4-H Horse Projects? Get started now!



HIPPOLOGY ACADEMY

The 2024 Hippology Academy kicks off on February 17. Topics for this year include toxic plants of the northeast, horse evaluation, feeding myths, soil testing and usage, identifying feeds, and fencing. Content for each topic includes practice tests, slides, and digital learning stations in addition to twice weekly lectures.

There are three enrollment levels to choose from:

- **Bronze:** All content listed above, accessible until August 31
- **Silver:** Everything included in Bronze, plus can ask teacher questions, participate in discussion board, and have access to course material until November 31
- **Gold:** Everything included in Silver, plus opportunity to participate in live virtual office hours with instructor (Thursday evenings) and access to course material until December 31

Learn more and register at:

<https://catalog.extension.org/?category=6&keyword=hippology&cond=advand&search=Search>

VIRTUAL 4-H HORSE JUDGING CAMP

The Nebraska 4-H Horse Judging Camp is for horse show judges, aspiring judges, judging team coaches, and youth. Classes covered will be Performance Halter, Oral Reasons, Reining, and Western Riding. Presenters will be Dr. Steven Cooper of Oklahoma State University, Dr. Casie Bass of Purdue University, Dr. Alyssa Logan of Middle Tennessee State University, Dr. Kathy Anderson of University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

 A promotional poster for the Virtual Judging Camp. It features a blue background with the text "VIRTUAL JUDGING CAMP FEBRUARY 8" in large, stylized letters. Below the text are logos for Nebraska (N), Purdue (P), Oklahoma State (OSU), and Middle Tennessee (MT). A list of details includes: \$50, 4 weeks, home assignments, interactive virtual meetings, and a certificate of completion. At the bottom, four circular images represent the classes: Performance Halter, Oral Reasons, Reining, and Western Riding.

REGISTRATION
Registration Link: [Judging Camp](#)

- \$50
- 4 weeks
- Home assignments
- Interactive virtual meetings
- Certificate of Completion

Performance Halter Oral Reasons Reining Western Riding

When: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, February 8, 15, 22 and 29

Where: Online

Cost: \$50

Register: animalscience.unl.edu/horse-judging-school

Keep an eye on our calendars for fun opportunities for 4-Hers

The calendar is filling up with fun opportunities for 4-Hers! To see What's Happening in Buffalo County 4-H, visit:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/buffalo/whats-happening-in-4-h/>

To see what's happening around the state in 4-H, visit:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/buffalo/area-shows-clinics-activities/>

Save the Date
FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
MARCH 15-16 2024

N EXTENSION
Women in Agriculture
SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 22-23, 2024
HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER
KEARNEY, NE
NEBRASKA WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE
WIA@UNL.EDU



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: March 15th
Download entry forms at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth>

start the innovation

For more info, call 402-759-3712.
Sponsored by: **N EXTENSION** Nebraska Corn Board

Summer 2024 CAMP

The power of being green

CHADRON	JUNE 1-5 JUNE 6-8	10-14 YEARS 8-10 YEARS
COZAD	JUNE 16-20 JULY 1-3	10-14 YEARS 8-10 YEARS
BURWELL	JULY 17-19 JULY 20-24	8-10 YEARS 10-14 YEARS

REGISTER TODAY
4H.UNL.EDU/CAMPS-REGISTER

N EXTENSION

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 29, 2024
NCTA, CURTIS, NE

Animal Science Discover Day is a hands-on educational program designed to engage youth in Animal Science topics and Agricultural Careers.

Registration information will be available after February 1st.

ANIMAL SCIENCE DISCOVERY DAYS
N EXTENSION

8TH ANNUAL AGRONOMY YOUTH FIELD DAY

SAVE THE DATE!!

TUESDAY, JULY 9TH, 2024
NCTA, CURTIS, NE

OPEN STATEWIDE TO YOUTH AGES 9-18; PARENTS & ADULTS ARE WELCOME TOO. FREE EVENT! REGISTRATION LINK COMING SOON

YOUTH WILL LEARN ABOUT CAREERS IN PRECISION AG, AGRONOMY, WEED SCIENCE & IRRIGATION THROUGH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FROM NEBRASKA EXTENSION AND NCTA CROPPING & WATER SYSTEMS EDUCATORS & OTHER CROP SCIENTISTS

N EXTENSION
NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE
4-H Youth Development

LEADERS: Find resources to enrich your club's experience at <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/buffalo/leader-resources/>

NDA offers poster contest

Theme is READY, SET, GROW

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture's (NDA) annual poster contest highlights and celebrates Nebraska agriculture. NDA's poster contest is open to all Nebraska students in first through sixth grades. This year's theme, Nebraska Agriculture: Ready, Set, Grow, applies to everything in Nebraska from livestock to crops. The deadline to submit posters is March 1. The NDA will announce the winners during National Agriculture Week, March 17-23. Poster contest rules and official entry forms are available online at nda.nebraska.gov/kids.



Scholarships available to 4-Hers

Don't miss out on extra college funds

Buffalo County 4-H Scholarships

Eligible 4-H members can apply to all of the following Buffalo County 4-H scholarships with one application. Please thoroughly read the application form as some of these scholarships require additional materials to be submitted, such as a reference letter, essay or interview. Applications, along with supporting materials, must be turned into the Buffalo County Extension office by **5 p.m. Friday, March 1**. Youth must be an active Buffalo County 4-H member by March 1.

Application and details can be found at: buffalo.unl.edu

- Andy and Nevabelle Howe Scholarship - \$150
- Bankers Association Scholarship - 4 available - \$500
- Buffalo Belles Horseman Scholarship - \$200
- Buffalo County 4-H Scholarship - 6 available - \$500
- Karen Stafford-Swartz Scholarship - \$200
- Ronald and Jacquelyn Kegley 4-H Scholarship - \$500



Charles and Jeannette Mumma Scholarship

Two \$1,500 and two \$750 scholarships will be awarded by the Buffalo County 4-H Council, for use in any field of study. Applicants must have participated in 4-H for a minimum of 4 years and must be currently enrolled. The selection criteria will be based on an interview and the applicant's resume, 4-H involvement/leadership and scholastic achievement. Must be turned into the Buffalo County Extension office by **5 p.m. Friday, March 1**. Apply at: buffalo.unl.edu

Sincerely Kerry Elsen - 4-H Extension Educator, Jordan Wilbur & Heidi Darby - 4-H Assistants



Buffalo County 4-H Shooting Sports Club

PANCAKE FEED

LET US DO THE COOKING!

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

7:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Buffalo County Extension Building

1400 East 34th Street

South Side of the Fairgrounds



Free Will Donation

***Supplies & Equipment Fundraiser for
supported 4-H Shooting Sports Programs***

4-H Disciplines include:

***Air Rifle - Air Pistol - Archery - BB Gun - Shotgun -
.22 Pistol & Smallbore Rifle***



January

- 1 Extension office closed – New Year's Day
- 2 BRAG meeting
- 5 Deadline for 4-H Foundation scholarships
- 14 Skillathon Orientation & Practice
- 15 Extension office closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 15 Deadline to sign up for Tracks & Scat Workshop
- 20 Tracks & Scat Workshop
- 23 4-H Council meeting
- 31 Deadline for Club Treasurer Reports

February is 4-H Month

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- 13 BRAG meeting
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- 25 4-H Council meeting

April

- 1-2 BRAG
- 23 4-H Council meeting
- 26 Extension office closed – Arbor Day

May

- 7 Sign-up deadline for Speech/PSA/Presentation Contest
- 13 Sign-up deadline for Performing Arts – UNK
- 13 Sign-up deadline for Building Better Babysitters - Pleasanton
- 14 Speech/PSA/Presentation Contest
- 16 Sign-up deadline for Building Better Babysitters – Elm Creek
- 20 Performing Arts – UNK
- 20 Building Better Babysitters – Pleasanton
- 21 Building Better Babysitters – Kearney Park & Recreation
- 21 Catalpa Tree Workshop
- 22 BRAG meeting
- 23 Building Better Babysitters – Elm Creek
- 24 Deadline to sign up for Jr./Sr. Tempt, Taste, Try
- 28 Extension office closed – Memorial Day

June

- 1 Horse ID, entry level testing due for State 4-H Horse Show
- 5 Sr. Tempt, Taste and Try
- 6 Jr. Tempt, Taste and Try

- 15 All Livestock & Horse ID's due (includes Rabbit & Poultry)
- 15 DNA State Fair envelopes due to Extension office
- 15 State Fair online nominations due
- 15 4-H ENROLLMENT DEADLINE
- 15 Quality Assurance deadline
- 15 Horse Advancement Level testing due for county fair
- 18 Deadline to sign up for Culinary Challenge
- 18 4-H State Speech
- 19 Extension office closed - Juneteenth
- 20 Sign-up Deadline for Clover Kid Adventure Day
- 20-21 PASE Premier Animal Science Event-UNL
- 25 Culinary Challenge
- 25 4-H Council meeting
- 25 Deadline to sign up for Lamb & Goat Camp
- 26 BRAG meeting
- 27 Clover Kid Adventure Day

July

- 1 Horse Advancement Level Testing Deadline for county fair
- 3 Pre-fair ONLINE entries due
- 4 Extension office closed – Independence Day
- 6 Buffalo County 4-H Horse Invitational
- 9-10 Lamb & Goat Camp
- 18 Deadline to sign up for Fashion Show
- 23-29 Buffalo County Fair
- 25 Fashion Show – Buffalo County Fairgrounds

August

- 1-2 BRAG
- 19 State Fair project drop off
- 21 Exhibits traveling to State Fair
- 23 – Sept. 2 Neb. State Fair (4-H is 1st weekend, FFA is 2nd)
- 27 4-H Council meeting

September

- 2 Extension office closed – Labor Day
- 26 4-H Council meeting

October

- 1-6 National 4-H Week
- Club of Excellence Applications due to Extension
- 4-H Council meeting
- 14 Extension office closed – Columbus Day
- 16 4-H Enrollment opens for new program year

November

- 1 4-H Achievement applications due
- 11 Extension office closed – Veteran's Day observed
- TBD Year-End Celebration
- 26 4-H Council meeting
- 28-29 Extension office closed – Thanksgiving

December

- 25 – Extension office closed – Christmas