

4-H Enrollment is open in Buffalo County! Has your child or your family joined 4-H? Why or why not?

As a 10 year 4-H member from Nance county and as the assistant educator for 4-H in Buffalo County, I want to tell you some fantastic **WHYs** behind **WHY** your child or your family should consider joining 4-H. Some of this information comes directly from the National 4-H website as well as the Nebraska 4-H website.

1. 4-H prepares youth to make decisions for today and the future

More young people need the kind of hands-on, youth-led experiences that 4-H provides. Experiences where they learn by doing, grow from failure, express their ideas and use their influence to drive positive outcomes. Adult mentors provide guidance, ask questions, share learnings and encourage.

2. 4-H empowers youth leadership

4-H's hands-on approach is proven to grow life skills like confidence, independence, resilience and compassion through stages and developed through experiences, not instruction. 4-H empowers young people to be true leaders. True leaders are young people who have confidence; know how to work well with others; can endure through challenges; and will stick to a job until it gets done. In 4-H, we believe true leaders aren't born—they are grown. The result? Kids who are empowered with the skills to lead for a lifetime.

3. 4-H engages youth in STEM & Agricultural Literacy

4-H STEM and agriculture programs equip young people with the skills they need to succeed in life, and are available through local clubs, schools and grant-funded programs. In 2018 in Nebraska, more than 3,000 youth were engaged in programming to inspire young people to pursue studies and careers in STEM. Youth programs explored topics such as 3D printing, acoustical engineering, animal science, environmental science, plant science, and wearable technology. As a result, in Nebraska, 78% of youth participants would like to have a career in the STEM field.

4. 4-H is backed by the University of Nebraska- Lincoln

The Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development program works towards the outcomes of the Nebraska 4-H strategic plan. Each year, to measure the success of Nebraska 4-H in reaching these outcomes, more than 1,000 youth from across the state contribute their responses to a mixed methods study. From those responses, UNL found that Nebraska 4-H reaches 1 in 3 age-eligible youth and families in all 93 counties with the support of over 12,000 volunteers. Nebraska 4-H strives to enable all youth to develop strong personal mindsets and the social skills necessary for successful futures.

You've read through some **WHYs**, now, it's time for the **HOW!** Enroll for 4-H in Buffalo county today! Type this link into your computer or mobile device to find more information, or scan this QR code with a smart device:

buffalo.unl.edu

Still not convinced? Feel free to explore our various social media pages or call our office to learn more about upcoming events and programs! (308) 236-1235

- <https://www.facebook.com/BuffaloCountyNebraska4H/>



- <https://www.instagram.com/buffalocounty4h/>
- <https://www.pinterest.com/buffaloco4h/>

As COVID19 continues to impact our lives, Nebraska 4-H will continue to provide opportunities for Nebraska youth. New live experiences are being offered across the state for youth of all ages! For a list of upcoming statewide events, please visit the Nebraska 4-H event calendar. Stay tuned as new events are being added daily! <https://events.unl.edu/4h/upcoming/>

More information and resources about youth social-emotional development in difficult times can be found at <http://disaster.unl.edu/families>. As always, please reach out to your local Nebraska Extension office in Buffalo County with any youth development questions, comments or concerns.

Kameran Ulferts- 4-H Asst Educator

Nebraska Extension in Buffalo County- 1400 East 34th St Kearney, NE 68847- 308-236-1235