

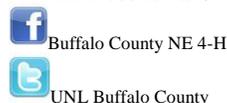


September 2015

4-H EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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- Youth Members:** Samuel Florell
Braden Hadwiger
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The Calendar of Events:

Issue 8

September

- 7 Extension Office closed/Labor Day.
- 9-10 State Fair Exhibits can be picked up at the Extension Office (only those who are not in the Library Display).
- 10 Selected State Fair & Clover Kid Exhibits on display at Kearney Public Library for month of September.
- 14 Family & Consumer Science PAT meeting, 7:00 p.m., Extension Office.
- 15 Project Action Team (livestock and small animals) Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Ext. Building.
- 15-17 Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island
- 19-20 Ak-Sar-Ben Horse Show, Lincoln.
- 20 BRAG (Ag Literacy) Group Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Extension Building.
- 22 4-H Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Extension Office.
- 22 Ak-Sar-Ben Exhibitors' Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Extension Building.
- 24-27 Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show, Omaha.

October

- 2 4-H Career Portfolios and Diamond Clover applications due to Extension Office.
- 3 "4-H Gives Big" Sew Day Open House, 10:00 – 4:00, Ext. Bldg. (flyer enclosed).
- 4-10 National 4-H Week.
- 10 "Science Saturday", Raising Nebraska Bldg., State Fairgrounds, 10:00 – Noon.
- 12 Shooting Sports 4-H Club (BB gun, rifle, air pistol) Org. Mtg., 6:30 pm, Ext. Bldg.
- 12 Extension Office closed/Columbus Day.
- 14-15 Youth Science Field Day, Extension Bldg.
- 15 4-H Club of Excellence and 4-H Activity Record due to Extension Office.
- 27 4-H Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 31 Fall 4-H Quilting Class, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Extension Building.

November

- 1 4-H Recognition Banquet and Awards, 5:00 p.m., Ext. Bldg.
- 11 Extension Office closed/Veteran's Day.
- 14 Fall 4-H Quilting Class, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Extension Building.
- 24 4-H Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 26-27 Extension Office closed/Thanksgiving.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We want to congratulate all our 4-H exhibitors who had exhibits at the 2015 Buffalo County Fair and the 2015 Nebraska State Fair. Job well done!

Remember to cash your County Fair premium checks. There is a 60-day expiration date.

Livestock Auction Checks are Ready

The Buffalo County Fair livestock auction checks are ready to be picked up at the Extension Office during our business hours, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Fair Board requests that these checks be picked up by the individual, their parents or unless the parent authorizes someone else to pick up the check by calling the Extension Office.



Extension is a division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



Thank You Volunteers

A big Thank You to all of our valued 4-H volunteers who took time to respond to the Volunteer Assessment that was sent earlier. We appreciate your comments, ideas and input.

The strengths of the Nebraska 4-H Volunteer System included satisfaction with volunteer colleagues. Volunteers liked the nature of the work and were committed to the 4-H organization.

Areas of growth volunteers identified included level of communication between staff and volunteers, role ambiguity/expectations and volunteer management practices.

In the next year we will address these concerns. We will be clarifying roles by developing job descriptions, providing more training for experienced and new volunteers and we will work to be more consistent with communication and listen to what you have to say. We will also be updating print and online resources.

Again, thank you for participating in the survey and for being willing to be a part of “making the best better”.

A BIG County Fair “Thank You”

Another County Fair has come and gone. We hope it was a positive experience for everyone. We appreciate every single person with any level of contribution to the fair, from exhibiting to volunteering. It was your involvement as members, parents, and leaders that generated the fair’s tremendous success. Thank You!

Special thanks to all of the superintendents, assistant superintendents, junior assistant superintendents, and all other volunteers for all your help in making everything run smoothly.

Thanks to the folks who volunteered during the fairgrounds workdays. These families and individuals worked extremely hard and did a great job in getting the grounds and buildings ready for fair.

Remember to say “Thanks”... All 4-H exhibitors...

Please remember to let your award sponsor and/or livestock buyers know how much we appreciate their contribution to our 4-H program. You should also thank the Buffalo County Farm Bureau for their donation of the 4-H t-shirts. Their constant support of the 4-H program is greatly appreciated by everyone.

Here’s a suggestion. How about sending out thank-you notes from your club and have each member of your club sign the notes. An important job will be done in a short amount of time.

Kearney Public Library Display

State Fair & Clover Kid Exhibits on Display

Starting on Thursday, September 10, some of the State Fair static projects that were exhibited in Grand Island will be on display at the Kearney Public Library for the month of September. Call the office before picking up your exhibits from

the Extension Office after State Fair to check if yours is in the library display.

Let the office know if you **do not** wish for your state fair exhibit to be on display at the library. County Clover Kids exhibits are welcome to be in the library display and need to be delivered to the office by **Wednesday, September 9**. You may include the ribbons on your exhibit but it is not a requirement. Keep in mind the glass shelving is not very deep so items larger than 10” in depth will not fit.

CELEBRATE National 4-H Week October 4-10, 2015

Saturday, October 3 – “4-H Gives Big” Sew Day

In celebration of National 4-H Week and the statewide 4-H Community Service Day, “4-H Gives Big”, there will be a Sewing Open House from 10:00 – 4:00 to make small fabric marble bags for Kearney Public Schools. These will be used during the field trips for local elementary students to the Trails & Rails Museum. Come for an hour or two or help all day! These bags are easy to construct with cutting a rectangle, sewing 2 straight seams and pressing down the top edge. That’s it! Bring your sewing machine, sewing kit, extension cord and an iron. We will have stations set up for each step. Bring a sack lunch if you plan to sew over lunch time.

4-H families sewed over 300 marble bags this summer and thought it was a great project for a good cause so Buffalo County 4-H wants to do it in an even BIGGER way on October 3. The goal is to sew 500 in one day! If you are unable to sew with us at the Extension Building, you may pick up fabric from the office ahead of time and sew them at home that weekend. Completed bags can be turned in on Monday, October 5. 4-H’ers, their families and friends may join in! It will be “Sew” fun!

Wednesday, October 7 – Wear a 4-H Shirt to School or Work

Show your pride and promote 4-H all day! Any person, including adults, who wish to show their 4-H support during National 4-H Week are asked to wear a 4-H Shirt this day. Take a creative or crazy individual or group photo and text it to Kristin at 402-490-2760 and it will be posted on social media. Prizes will be given for the best individual and group shots. So, join in and show your 4-H spirit!

Saturday, October 10 – “Science Saturday”

Celebrate National 4-H Week by attending the free, fun for all ages “Science Saturday” at Raising Nebraska on Saturday, October 10, between 10:00 a.m. to noon. The feature program is the 2015 National 4-H Science Day Experiment – Motion Commotion. Get moving and conduct the experiments at your own pace, led by youth and enjoyed by all. Let’s show how “4-H Grows Here” in Nebraska! Raising Nebraska is located in the Nebraska Building on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds at 501 E. Fonner Park Rd., Grand Island, NE 68801. For more information on Raising Nebraska, visit www.raisingnebraska.net.

Project Action Team Meetings

Family & Consumer Science P.A.T. Meeting

Join us on Monday, September 14, at the Extension Office for the next P.A.T. group meeting. We will discuss County Fair, premium book changes, the pie auction and 4-H Promotions. All County Fair static area superintendents are also invited to this meeting. Please come and share your ideas to make our fair even better next year!

Livestock and Small Animal P.A.T. Meeting

The Project Action Teams will meet at the Extension Office on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. They will discuss county fair and any changes that need to be made, among other items to discuss about the 4-H Program.

Fall 4-H Quilting Classes

First Class: Saturday, October 31 – 1-4 p.m.

Second Class: Saturday, November 14 – 1-4 p.m.

Extension Building, Kearney

If you wish to learn basic quilting techniques or build on the skills you already have, there are a few more spots left in the upcoming fall quilt classes. Beginners and Intermediate quilters are welcome. This group will meet monthly through February. Mary Seely will be the main instructor to help you take your project from start to finish.

4-H members must bring an adult to help guide them, a sewing machine and a sewing kit. Two Extension sewing machines are available for use upon request. Donated fabric is available at the Extension Office or you may purchase your own. You will be constructing a quilt project suitable to exhibit at next year's fair.

Prior to class time, contact Kristin Prill at 236-1235 or email at Kristin.prill@unl.edu to reserve your spot in the class and to get the instruction packet.

4-H Activities & Reports

Career Portfolios & Diamond Clover Award Applications Due Friday, October 2

Earn a \$20 scholarship to camp or a 4-H event by submitting your portfolio! It may also be considered for district judging and could even earn you a trip to National 4-H Congress. If you need help getting started or help adding information to last year's portfolio, we are here to help! Please contact Kristin Prill at the Extension Office at 236-1235 to schedule a time to get started and answer your questions or speak to your club. Bring your laptop if possible. Green record book covers and divider sheets are available at the Extension Office for a small fee.

The Career Portfolio Cover Sheet is enclosed with a list of possible awards. This sheet is the first page of your book followed by the online career portfolio pages.

Along with the award areas that can be applied for, there are these "Special Awards":

- **Buffalo Belles Horsemanship Award** (\$50 cash award to each age group winner – 8-13 years old and 14 years and older). Criteria: currently enrolled in Horse project; attend club meetings; participate in County Fair and local horse shows; complete "Light Horse Record Book" (at Extension Office); write an essay on "What My 4-H Horse Project Means to Me".
- **Beaver Creekers Award** (\$50 cash award to each group winner – 11-13 years old and 14 years and older). Criteria: Compete in at least one of the following areas: Speech, Presentations and/or Livestock Judging. Mandatory participation in livestock showmanship (in one of the following divisions: cattle, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry or rabbits). A 4-H Career Portfolio must be completed.
- **Gloria Hanna Memorial Award** (\$100 cash award to each age group winner – 8-11 years old and 12 years and older). Criteria: Involvement in pre-fair contests; county fair exhibits; Family and Consumer Science experiences; leadership; community service.

Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence and 4-H Group Activity Summary due October 15

Those 4-H clubs that wish to increase their success and measure their impact are being asked to apply for an elite status as a "Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence". Each club that submits their form will be recognized for this at the Recognition Banquet. To receive this recognition, clubs must meet certain criteria and document how this criterion was met. Clubs must apply annually to receive the recognition. The application form will be mailed out to the organizational leaders around the middle of September along with the 4-H Group Activity summary form. "**Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence**" **applications are due to the Extension Office by October 15.** In addition, the Buffalo County 4-H Council will be rewarding \$75 to any Buffalo County 4-H Club that meets all the criteria and completes all the requirements to receive the designation as a "Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence". The certificates and checks will be presented at the 4-H Recognition Banquet on November 1.

Buffalo County 4-H Clubs, if you have no intention of completing the "Nebraska Club of Excellence" form, we are asking that you at least complete the 4-H Group Activity Summary for 2015. This form is very important for several reasons. One of those reasons is for 4-H Community Service Recognition, which is also announced at the 4-H Recognition Banquet. The other information you provide on the sheet helps us in the office know what went well during the year and what recommendations, if any, you may have to make the 4-H program more successful. Please help us serve you, your 4-H club and the 4-H community by completing this form and getting it returned by October 15.

We appreciate your dedication and willingness in helping make the Buffalo County 4-H program a greater success. We want to recognize your club's efforts and success in obtaining "Nebraska Club of Excellence" status!

Career Portfolio Judging

If you are a 4-H parent, grandparent, leader or volunteer, consider judging Custer County's Career Portfolios on **Monday, October 5, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** at the Extension Office in Kearney. This is a unique opportunity to learn how portfolios are put together and what makes a great record book.

Call the Extension Office or e-mail Kristin.prill@unl.edu, if you are interested in being a judge. No previous judging experience is required. If your schedule is tight, consider stopping in over your lunch hour. Lunch will be provided.

4-H Recognition Banquet

Plan to attend the annual Buffalo County 4-H Recognition Banquet on Sunday, November 1, at 5:00 p.m. Join us in the fun of wrapping up the 4-H year and celebrating the achievements of 4-H members and leaders.

Awards will be given to 4-H'ers for record books, three-year membership certificates, and five- and ten-year membership pins.

Leaders' longevity pins will also be given to leaders who are current and active.

If you are to receive a pin or certificate, you will be sent a postcard. If you know you should receive one of these awards, let us know if you do not receive a postcard by October 20.

You will have an opportunity to vote for 4-H Council the night of the banquet. If you are interested in knowing more about Project Action Teams or to volunteer to serve on a PAT position, you can sign up that night as well or give the Extension Office a call.

4-H Council Positions

The Buffalo County 4-H Council is a group of adults and youth volunteers who meet monthly (on the fourth Tuesday evening) to evaluate the 4-H program, set policies, plan programs and events, plan fund-raising, and decide upon other 4-H management issues.

The 4-H Council is essential to the 4-H program in Buffalo County. All major decisions are brought through the 4-H Council. If there is an area you are interested in or if you are looking for an opportunity to utilize your leadership skills and play an important role in youth programming, then please call the Extension Office. Likewise, if you know someone you think would make a great 4-H Council member, please submit his or her name. We need individuals who are interested in making 4-H a growing and thriving program in Buffalo County.

Positions available include: Vice-President/President-Elect, Treasurer Elect, Key Recruiter and four youth.

The 4-H Council elections will be held at the 4-H Recognition Banquet on Sunday, November 1. Parents and 4-H youth may vote for adult and youth members on the 4-H Council.

Description of 4-H Council Positions:

Vice-President/President Elect:

Duties shall include presiding at Council meetings in the absence of the President and serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Vice-President/President Elect shall be elected each year.

Treasurer-Elect:

Duties shall include an active voting role in the 4-H Council and learning the business transactions of the Council. The Treasurer-Elect will work with the current Treasurer during their first year in office and then move to the position of Treasurer for the remaining year of their term. The Treasurer-Elect shall be elected to take office every year.

Key Recruiter:

Duties shall include promoting 4-H and youth programs to the public and community decision-makers; as well as serving as the chair of the Recruitment and Retention Committee. Key Recruiter shall be elected to take office in even numbered years.

Youth Representatives:

Duties shall include representing youth interests on the 4-H Council. Youth representatives shall be at least 12 years old (4-H age) to be considered. There shall be four (4) youth representatives, selected each year for a one-year term. At least eight nominees will be submitted by the previous year's youth representatives. They will be elected by ballot using the same rules as for other adult 4-H Council members. The four youth receiving the most votes will be the youth representatives.

4-H Alumni and Friend of 4-H

The 4-H Recognition Banquet is a great time to recognize those people who go that extra mile for our 4-H program. If you would like to nominate a former 4-H'er for the 4-H Alumni Award or someone for the Friend of 4-H award, please contact the Extension Office by October 1.

Shooting Sports

Buffalo County Shooting Sports 4-H Club

The organizational meeting will be held on **Monday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Building.** This meeting is for those joining BB gun, Air Rifle and Air Pistol only. The other disciplines will organize at a later date. It is strongly recommended that parents attend this meeting for appropriate shooting discipline for their child. Meeting nights and times will be determined that night. If you have questions, please call the Extension Office at 236-1235.

Sincerely,

Brian Bosshamer, Extension Educator
Brent Plugge, Extension Educator
Carol Schwarz, Extension Educator
Kerry Elsen, Extension Assistant
Kristin Prill, Extension Assistant