

Butler County 4-H News

December 2023

Dates to Remember

Dec. 4 - 4-H at Christmas on the Bricks

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day - Office Closed

Dec. 28 - Holiday 4-H Workshop

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day - Office Closed

Jan. 3 - 4-H Council Meeting at 7 pm

Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Office Closed

Jan. 22 - 4-H Club Leader Training

Jan. 31 - 4-H Club Treasurer's Report Due



4-H Awards and Recognition

Wow - what a great way to recognize our outstanding 4-H'ers and volunteers! We had nearly 150 people in attendance at our 2023 Butler County 4-H Awards and Recognition Banquet in early November. **Thank you** to all those who attended, brought food for the pot luck and celebrated our award winners!

Aliesha Meusch | 4-H Assistant | aliesha.meusch@unl.edu

Stephanie Bell | 4-H Educator | sbell8@unl.edu

Louise Niemann | Office Manager | lniemann2@unl.edu

Office Hours: Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
451 N. 5th St, David City, NE 68632 | 402-367-7410



Nebraska State Fair Events & Statewide Competitions

EXCITING NEWS FOR NEBRASKA YOUTH! *From the State 4-H Office* As you know, in 2023, Nebraska 4-H lowered the age limit for participation in the Nebraska State Fair for all in-person events to nine years of age. That change increased our participation and provided more youth the opportunity to have an engaging learning experience. We had many positive comments from legacy families as well as new.

This fall, we have had follow-up conversations with many of you as well as the show superintendents and various teams that run these events during State Fair and throughout the year. Based on that feedback and our goal of increasing access, the decision has been made to change the age of eligibility.

Starting in 2024, all Nebraska 4-H youth age 8 and older will be able to participate in statewide competitions (Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Expo, PASE, communications contest) and in-person State Fair events (livestock, contests, fashion show). NOTE: there will be some events that will maintain their ages due to specific program rules (shooting sports, FIRST LEGO League Challenge robotics). Please check information on each specific event as it becomes available.

The age of youth is set as of January 1st of the current year and youth must enroll in 4-H before June 15, 2024.

4-H Online Enrollment is Open

Online enrollment is now open to enroll or re-enroll your 4-H'er(s) for 2024. 4-H leaders, along with Council members, are also required to enroll or re-enroll for the new year.

The enrollment website is **Sign In (4honline.com)**. Google Chrome and Firefox are the recommended web browsers to use when enrolling online.

Annual enrollment fee for 2024 will be \$10 per 4-H'er and no charge for Club Leaders and Council Members. Payment is required at the end of the enrollment process.

Important: If you are re-enrolling in 4-H, please DO NOT create a new enrollment. Use your email address and password from last year to log into and start your re-enrollment for this year.

NEW: Starting in the 2023-2024 program year, project selection is now optional! By successfully completing the 4-H member enrollment by the June 15 deadline, youth will be eligible to participate and exhibit in any project area, contest, county and state fairs. **NOTE:** Youth are only eligible to exhibit in a project area or contest in a single county. Horse and shooting sports will continue to require project enrollment due to the parental consent required to participate in these projects. While project selection is optional, it is encouraged for youth to select projects that they are interested in exploring and you will notice that project selection has been simplified! Instead of over 200 projects, you will find approximately 50. Example: Market Beef, Breeding Beef, Feeder Calf and Bucket Calf are now all included under **Beef**. Design My Place, Preserving Heirlooms and Design Decisions (Home Environment) are now all included under **Home Design and Restoration**.



Office Closed
Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

Save The Date



4-H Leader Training
Jan. 22 | 5:30 pm | Hwy 92 Bldg.

4-H Leader Training

Save the date for Monday, January 22 for the 2024 Butler County 4-H Leader Training! The training is open to 4-H club leaders, volunteers, independent families, etc. One 4-H club leader from each club should plan to attend. Changes to the program for 2024 will be shared, along with dates to remember, workshops and more.

A meal will be served from 5:30-5:45 pm and the training will begin at 5:45. **RSVP to the Extension Office by Friday, January 19.**

4-H Volunteer Orientation

Nebraska 4-H has launched a new volunteer orientation. This online training serves as an introduction to the 4-H Youth Development program in Nebraska and covers a few essential topics for volunteers. While the orientation is required for new volunteers and those going through the re-screening process, any interested individuals, including current and prospective volunteers, are welcome to complete the course. Learn more at 4h.unl.edu/volunteer-orientation. Current Butler County 4-H leaders and volunteers aren't required to complete this training until 2026 - when our county is up for re-screening.



Omaha Fashion Week

Nebraska 4-H is once again partnering with Omaha Fashion Week during its Spring Showcase. OFW Student Night will take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, and will exclusively feature student designers, including a 4-H collection. This collection will consist of 12 to 15 garments from across the state. Each garment will be modeled by the 4-H member who made it. In order to create a complete and dynamic collection, interested 4-H members are invited to apply to participate in the show. The 4-H collection will be curated based on the selection criteria as listed below. To apply, visit <https://go.unl.edu/4HOFW2024>.

- Selection Criteria:
 - Participants must be current 4-H members.
 - Garments must be constructed by the 4-H member from 2023, not purchased.
 - Preference will be given to full garments constructed by the 4-H member.
 - Garments should be fashion-forward, runway appropriate, and display high-quality construction.
 - Creativity and attention to detail are highly scrutinized in garment selection.



Overlooked Projects

We all know about the 4-H livestock, cooking and sewing projects. But with nearly 50 projects to choose from, there are likely some you aren't familiar with. To learn about five often-overlooked projects offer real-world skills and unique experiences, visit go.unl.edu/2nd8. We challenge you to try one of the five suggested projects - or a new one - this year! Questions? Contact Aliasha at the Extension Office.

State 4-H Achievement Applications

State achievement applications are due Friday, Jan. 5! These applications are used to select National 4-H Congress delegates, National 4-H Conference delegates, and Nebraska 4-H Foundation scholarship recipients. Only senior achievement application (ages 15-18) are accepted for state-level awards and recognition. Youth do not have had to submit at the county level to participate. Scholarships are also available through this application. For more information and to find applications, visit <https://4h.unl.edu/achievement-application>. Need help with your application or have any questions? Contact Aliasha at the Extension Office.

4-H Club Treasurer Reports

All Butler County 4-H Clubs are required to complete a YEAR END Treasurer's Report. The reports can be found by visiting [End of Year Treasurer Report.pdf \(unl.edu\)](#). Reports are due **January 31, 2024**.

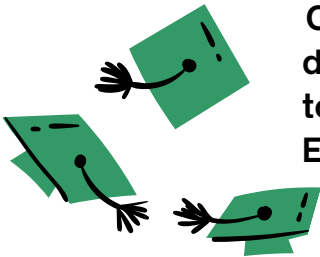


Office Closed
Jan. 15

Have an idea for a 2024 summer workshop? Email it to Aliesha at aliesha.meusch@unl.edu!

4-H Council Scholarship for Graduating Seniors

Butler County 4-H Council offers scholarships to graduating seniors. The scholarship application includes a registration form, a one-page essay and a completed 4-H Annual Award Application. Forms can be found online by visiting [4-H Newsletters | Nebraska Extension \(unl.edu\)](#). Applications are also available at the Extension office. Questions? Contact us at 402-367-7410.



Complete applications are due by April 1, by 5:00 pm to the Butler County Extension Office.

National 4-H Congress

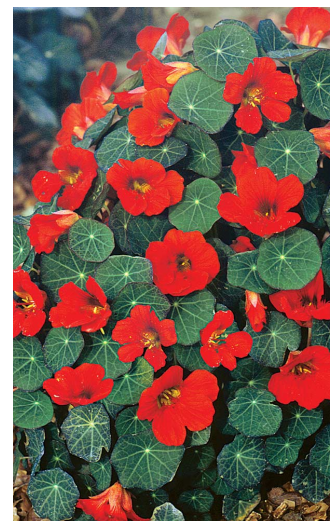
Autumn Lindsley attended National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA last week! She was selected through the state Achievement Application Program. Congratulations Autumn!



2024 Special Garden Project - Princess India Nasturtium

The Special Gardening Project lets 4-H members try their hand at growing unusual vegetables, flowers, and herbs. The project allows experienced 4-H gardeners to grow something fun, new, and different while letting those new to gardening get their feet wet in this project area.

The focus of the 2024 project is Princess 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. **Youth are encouraged to enroll for Horticulture/Plant Science through 4-H Online. [Contact the Extension Office to order seeds by Wednesday, January 10.](#)**





Around the Barn

Butler County 4-H Livestock Program Related Updates and Information

Butler County Fair Swine Show

NEW: Based on suggestions from the 2023 Butler County Fair and 4-H Council discussion, at the 2024 Butler County Fair and beyond, there will be a **Breeding Gilt Show!** See the details below. Questions? Contact Aliessa at the Extension Office.

- Identification:
 - Must be tagged with a county 4-H tag or 840 USDA EID tag.
 - Must complete an ID sheet by the June 15 deadline.
- Registration:
 - Exhibitors of breeding gilts must present certificate of registration or proof of registration to show in a registered breed class. The papers must be up to date in the name of the exhibitor, family or farm name, and meet breed industry standards for breed type, color and confirmation. Any breeding gilt that is registered to a breed association not listed in the fair book will show in the Other Purebred Breeding Gilt class. If registration papers aren't presented, the gilt will show in the crossbred class.
- Minimum Age Requirements:
 - All breeding gilts are required to be born on or after December 1, 2023.
- Quota:
 - Youth can exhibit 2 breeding gilts.
- Show Order:
 - Purebred breeding gilts will show first, followed by crossbred breeding gilts.
 - Purebred breeding gilts will be shown by age; crossbred will be shown by weight.
 - A champion and reserve champion gilt will come from each breed division.
 - Champions from each division will compete for an overall breeding gilt.
- Breeds:
 - Berkshire, Chester White, Duroc, Hampshire, Hereford, Poland China, Spotted, Yorkshire, All Other Breeds, Crossbred

Livestock Achievement Program

We are excited to announce the fourth year of the Nebraska 4-H Livestock Achievement Program. This additional opportunity for enrolled livestock project youth, is designed to promote all educational aspects of 4-H livestock projects including selection, production, leadership, and exhibition by recognizing youth striving to improve in their livestock project knowledge and leadership. The program recognizes Members of Excellence across all 4-H livestock project areas, including: beef, sheep, meat goat, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, rabbit, and poultry. Members as young as eight will be able to participate. Applications are due June 15, but why wait? Visit 4h.unl.edu/livestock-achievement to get started.

Winter 4-H Workshop

Join us **Thursday, December 28 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Butler County Event Center** for some winter workshop fun! Clover Kids will be creating a cookie mix in a jar, while learning about measuring and how to read a recipe. 4-H'ers aged 8 as of Jan. 1 and up will be decorating cookies, learning piping skills that can be used for county fair decorating projects. Participants will then enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and a Christmas movie!



Register by **Monday, December 18**. Workshop fee is **\$5**.

Workshop is limited to 25 participants aged 5-7 and 25 participants aged 8-18 as of Jan. 1.

Open to 4-H'ers aged 5 and older as of January 1, 2023.

Name:

Age:

Parent's Name:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

By signing this, you give permission to use your child's name/photography in local publications, advertisements, Facebook or news articles pertaining to 4-H activities.

Return this form and registration fee by **Monday, December 18** to:
Nebraska Extension - Butler County | 451 N. 5th St, David City, NE 68632

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status.

Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination.

