Butler County 4-H News

February 2024

Dates to Remember

Feb. 9 - Wear 4-H Shirt to School

Feb. 19 - President's Day - Office Closed

Feb. 27 - Runza Fundraiser Night

March 9 - YQCA Training

March 10 - Daylight Savings - Spring Forward

March 15-16 - FLL Lego Robotics Competition

March 20 - Communication Event Deadline

Celebrate NE 4-H Month!

February is Nebraska 4-H Month! Join us in a month of celebrations! **Friday, Feb. 9 is wear your 4-H Shirt to School Day.** We will have social media posts all month and locker signs heading out to schools. We are also bringing back our recruitment drawing event. We will end the month with a Runza Fundraiser Night on **February 27** with proceeds going to 4-H Council. Plan to eat out that night and support Butler County 4-H!

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

EXTENSION

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.

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. Example: If youth are enrolled in Butler and Seward county - they can only do projects in Home Environment in one county, not both. 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. The 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 feb. 19

★ **HAPPY PRESIDENTS DAY** ★

Enrollment Drawing

Starting February 29, each month we will have a drawing for those who enrolled in 4-H prior to that date! We will have prizes such workshop gift certificate, 4-H swag and more. Drawings will be held at the end of each month in February, March, April and May. Get enrolled today!
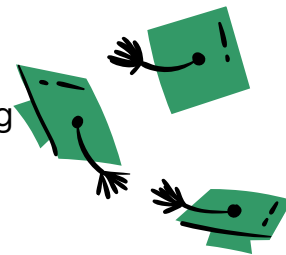
4-H Council Scholarship for Graduating Seniors

Butler County 4-H Council offers scholarships to graduating seniors. The scholarship application includes a registration form, a one-page essay and a competed 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.**

2024 Special Agronomy Project - Sugarbeets

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 in. 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!

SPECIAL AGRONOMY PROJECT
go.unl.edu/specialagronomy
Enroll by contacting your local extension office.
2024: Sugarbeets

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 the County and/or State Fair in the agronomy project area.

Enroll for the 2024 Special Agronomy Project through 4-H Online by enrolling in the Agronomy project and contacting your local Nebraska Extension Office to order packets of seeds. The local Extension Office will order and distribute the seeds to members. **Contact the Extension Office to order seeds by Monday, February 26.**

For project specifications and details, be sure to go to the Nebraska State Fairbook at **https://4hfairbook.unl.edu/fairbookview.php/rules.**

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 Thursday, February 15.

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, being added to the 4-H Swine Show at the Butler County Fair, is a **Breeding Gilt Show!** See the details below. Questions? Contact Aliesha 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.

Butler County Fair Swine Show

NEW: All swine shown at the Butler County Fair, both market and breeding, must be born on or after <u>December 1, 2023.</u>

Broiler Program

NEW: 4-H'ers are now responsible for purchasing the broiler chickens through the Extension Office for the Butler County Fair Broiler Show.

- **Broilers: $2.25/bird**
- **15 birds per exhibitor**

Checks are due at the time of ordering and can be made out to Butler County 4-H Council. **Deadline to order broilers is Friday, April 5.** Questions? Call Aliesha at the Extension Office.

Butler County Fair Goat Show

NEW: Moving forward during the 4-H Goat Show at the Butler County Fair, the wethers and does will show together. An overall market goat will be selected. This decision was not made lightly but is due to the low number of goats in the show. If numbers go up, this decision will be revisited.

Face-to-Face YQCA Trainings | Butler County 4-H Highway 92 Building | 3190 N Rd, David City, NE 68632

Saturday, March 9 | 10-11 am
Monday, April 1 | 1:30-2:30 pm
Friday, May 31 | 10-11 am
There will be one offered in June at 5:00 pm. Date TBA
Youth are only required to attend ONE training to earn their certification

Registering for quality assurance will be online at **https://yqcaprogram.org/**, using your YQCA login. If you are new - please create a new account. You can create a family account - with all youth under one account. Face-to-face sessions cost $3 and online sessions cost $12. both are paid online when you register. Youth will need to register online prior to coming to the face-to-face session. Face-to-face sessions will last at least one hour. **When registering for YQCA online - youth will need to complete a pre-test prior to attending the training and a post-test in order to access their certificate after training completion.**
Questions? Contact Aliesha at 402-367-7410 or aliesha.meusch@unl.edu.

PASE

Premier Animal Science Event University of Nebraska-Lincoln June 21-22

Must be 10 by January 1 to participate

Anyone who is interested - let Aliesha know so we can begin practices!

Livestock Judging

-Two divisions (10-13, 14-18)
-Up to 10 person teams/division
-Up to 8 individuals/division

Poultry Judging

-No age divisions
-Up to 4 person teams
-Up to 10 individuals

Meats Judging

-No age divisions
-Up to 4 person teams
-Up to 10 individuals

Livestock Quiz Bowl

-Two divisions (10-13, 14-18)
-4 person teams/division
-Up to 1 alternate/team

Livestock Skill-a-thon

-Two divisions (10-13, 14-18)
-Up to 5 person teams/division

For More Information:

Aliesha Meusch
aliesha.meusch@unl.edu
402-367-7410
Visit 4h.unl.edu/pase

N | EXTENSION

Butler County 4-H
Communication Event

N | **4-H**
EXTENSION

April 1
4:00 pm

West Education Center
Central Community College | Columbus
Hosted with Platte and Colfax 4-H

Register for the Communication Event by using the 'Events' tab on 4-H Online by March 20!

Speech, Impromptu Speech, PSA, Presentation, Video Communication Contests

2024 Butler, Colfax, Platte Communication Event

Contests: Speech, Impromptu Speech, PSA, Presentation, Video
Event Date & Time: Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 4:00 pm
Location: West Education Center, Room 205, Central Community College, Columbus
Registration: Online pre-registration is required. The deadline to register is March 20, 2024.
Contest Resources: Visit **https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/** to find Presentations, Speech, Impromptu Speech and Video Communication resources.

Speech Contest

Age Categories, Time Limits, Topics:
- Clover Kid (ages 5-7 as of January 1 of current year)
  - 3 minutes or less. Talk about anything! You may read a poem or a favorite story.
- Junior (ages 8-10 as of January 1 of current year)
  - 2-3 minutes. Must be an original speech relating to 4-H.
- Intermediate (ages 11-13 as of January 1 of current year)
  - 3-5 minutes. Must be an original speech relating to 4-H.
- Senior (14-18 as of January 1 of current year)
  - 5-7 minutes. Must be an original speech relating to 4-H.

Contest Guidelines:
- All speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.
- Many speakers in the Public Speaking Contest have given speeches in other contests. This is fine; however, previous speeches may not be used verbatim for the 4-H contest. It is okay to use the same ideas from a speech previously delivered in competition, but it must be 4-H related. Enough changes should be made to make that speech new to the speaker and the audience. 4-H public speakers may not use an old speech written by a sibling, another 4-H member, or anyone else.
- Acknowledge the source of information used in the speech. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference but should not be quoted directly unless you tell the audience your source.
- Organization: introduction, body and conclusion.
- Use of visual aids is not allowed. Notes may be used for Clover Kid and Junior categories.
- Deliver: eye contact, timing, gestures and posture.
- Voice: clear tones, correct volume and good pronunciation.
- Dress appropriately. Do not wear costumes or special effect clothing. 4-H Chevron required.
- No team speeches allowed.
- 4-H'ers who are 8 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for the Premier Communication Event (State Contest). Youth must be selected at the County Contest to compete in the Premier Communication Event.

Impromptu Speech Contest

Age Categories, Time Limits, Topics:
- Junior (ages 8-10 as of January 1 of current year)
  - 1 1/2 minutes.
- Intermediate (ages 11-13 as of January 1 of current year)
  - 3 minutes.
- Senior (14-18 as of January 1 of current year)
  - 5 minutes.

Contest Guidelines:
- Competition will give youth the opportunity to write and present a speech around a 4-H related topic that they select during the competition.
- Given 15 minutes to develop and prepare for their presentation. Participants will then deliver the speech to judges and audience members.
- Example topic: My Day in 4-H
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries allowed.
- 4-H'ers who are 8 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for the Premier Communication Event (State Contest). Youth must be selected at the County Contest to compete in the Premier Communication Event.

Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest

Age Categories, Time Limits, Topics:
- Junior (ages 8-10 as of January 1 of current year)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13 as of January 1 of current year)
- Senior (14-18 as of January 1 of current year)

Contest Guidelines:
- All PSA's are 60 seconds in length.
- Youth will prepare a PSA around the theme: **"4-H is a Feeling."**
- All radio PSA's must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska at any time of the year.
- All 4-H PSA's must include the following tag line within the last ten seconds of the PSA: **"Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu."** The tag line is included in the 60 second time limit.
- Sound effects and public domain music may be used. Copyrighted material may not be used.
- All PSA's must be the original work of the presenter. Contestants may not use PSA's written and provided by the state or national staff.
- No team PSA's are allowed.
- Scoring is based on the content of the material and delivery.
- Appearance and gestures are not judged.
- **County Contest Only:** Participants may read their PSA at the contest or submit it electronically in a .wav or .mp3 audio format on a flash/jump drive to be played at the contest

PSA Contest Continued

- If selected to go onto the Premier Communication Event (State Contest), radio PSA's will be submitted electronically as a .wav or .mp3 audio format. No CDs accepted.

Presentation Contest

Categories:
- **Show 'n' Tell** (County Only):
  - **Description:** A live presentation with a formal talk where youth will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something.
  - **Age:** Clover Kids Only
  - **Time Limit:** up to 5 minutes individual, no team presentation available for this class.
- **Illustrated Presentation:**
  - **Description:** An Illustrated Presentation involves one or two 4-H'ers giving a live presentation with a formal talk where the presenter(s) will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. All presentation topics should be related to what the 4-H youth is learning through 4-H educational experiences. Participants will be penalized if their presentation exceeds the time limit.
  - **Individual or Team:** An Illustrated Presentation may be given by one (1) individual or a team of two (2) individuals. If team members are not in the same age division, they must compete in the age division of the oldest team member.
  - Individual:
    - Junior (ages 8-10 as of January 1 of current year); Length: 3-5 minutes
    - Intermediate (ages 11-13 as of January 1 of current year); Length: 6-18 minutes
    - Senior (ages 14-18 as of January 1 of current year); Length: 6-18 minutes
  - Team:
    - Junior Division: 6-8 minutes
    - Intermediate and Senior Divisions: 8-10 minutes

Contest Guidelines:
- Presentations must include an introduction (the "why" portion of the topic), a body (the "show and tell" portion of the topic) and a conclusion/summary (the "what" portion of the topic).
- Each participant is required to wear the 4-H chevron, 4-H emblem or 4-H shirt.
- All categories require the presence of the contestant(s).
- The judge views the entire presentation and engages in a question-and-answer session following the presentation.
- 4-H'ers who are 8 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for the Premier Communication Event (State Contest). Youth must be selected at the County Contest to compete in the Premier Communication Event.

Video Communication Contest

Video Communication (Premier Communication Event Eligible):
- **Description:** The video communication contest allows youth to create a multi-media video around a theme related to 4-H. Judges will be evaluating both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production.
- **Age:** 8-18 as of January 1 of current year.
- **Time Limit:** 60-90 seconds; individual only.

Contest Guidelines:
- Youth may use a phone, laptop, or tablet to create a multi-media piece around the theme: **"4-H is a Feeling."**
- Sound effects, public-domain music, and graphics can be used. Copyrighted materials may not be used.
- For county contest only, the 4-H'er must be present to play video. If selected to go onto Premier Communication Event (State Contest), the video will be electronically submitted as MP4 files.

2024 Communication Event Online Registration
Deadline: March 20, 2024

Log into your 4HOnline family account at **https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in**.
Click "View" button next to 4-H'er who is registering for the contest.
Click on "Events" button stated down the lefthand side.
Click on blue "Register for a new event" button.
Select 2024 Communication Event (Butler, Colfax, Platte) - Click "Next"
Select "Category" and click on "Start Registration"