

Butler County 4-H News

January 2024

Dates to Remember

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

Feb. 9 - Wear 4-H Shirt to
School

Feb. 19 - President's Day -
Office Closed

Feb. 27 - Runza Fundraiser
Night



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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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



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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. 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**.

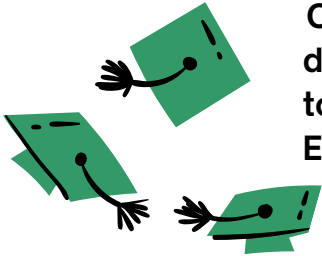
4-H Club Treasurer Reports

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**. **NEW:** This also includes an inventory report of items over \$100.

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.



Welcome New 4-H Council Members!

We are looking forward to welcoming three new youth members and one adult member to the Butler County 4-H Council.

- Isaiah Coufal
- Natalie DeWispelare
- Karla Wall
- Emma Zimmerman

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!

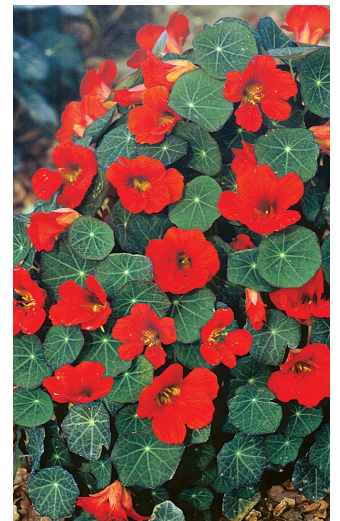


Office Closed
Jan. 15

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, 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.

Butler County Fair Swine Show

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

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: At the 2024 Butler County Fair Goat Show and beyond, 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

Wednesday, May 29 | 10-11 am

Wednesday, May 29 | 5-6 pm

****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 Aliessa 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

Livestock Quiz Bowl

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

Poultry Judging

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

Livestock Skill-a-thon

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

Meats Judging

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

For More Information:

Aliessa Meusch

aliesa.meusch@unl.edu

402-367-7410

Visit 4h.unl.edu/pase



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