

Butler County 4-H News

March 2024

Dates to Remember

Mar. 9 - YQCA Training from 10-11 am - Hwy 92 Bldg.

Mar. 10 - Daylight Savings - Spring Forward

Mar. 15-16 - FLL Lego Robotics Competition

Mar. 20 - Communication Event Deadline

Apr. 1 - 4-H Council Senior Scholarship Deadline

Apr. 1 - YQCA Training from 1:30-2:30 pm - Hwy 92 Bldg.

Apr. 3 - 4-H Council Meeting

Apr. 7 - Communication Contest at 4 pm

Apr. 26 - Office Closed - Arbor Day



Nebraska 4-H Month

Thank you to everyone who took part in Nebraska 4-H Month celebrations here in Butler County! We had youth wearing their shirts to school throughout the month. We concluded the month at Runza, where proceeds went back to the Butler County 4-H Program. Aliesha and Stephanie were present to visit with families about joining 4-H. It was great to visit with the 4-H families who ate inside and meet new youth interested in the program! **Thank you** to everyone who ate at Runza to support our 4-H program!

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.

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 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. 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**.



Spring Forward
March 10

Enrollment
Drawing

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

Nebraska 4-H 2024 Volunteer Recognition Nominations are OPEN!

Nebraska 4-H is now accepting nominations for a new awards program to recognize the outstanding contributions of 4-H volunteers across the state.

The Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Recognition Awards honors adult and youth volunteers, as well as and multi-generational families, who have provided meaningful contributions to Nebraska 4-H. One Outstanding Adult Volunteer Award and One Emerging Adult Volunteer Award winner will be chosen for each of the state's 10 Nebraska Extension Engagement zones. One statewide winner will be named in the each of the youth volunteer and multi-generational family categories.

"Our 4-H volunteers go above and beyond to serve Nebraska's youth every year," said Jill Goedecken, 4-H Youth Development Extension educator. "We are looking forward to another opportunity to recognize 4-H volunteers for their contributions to youth in Nebraska."

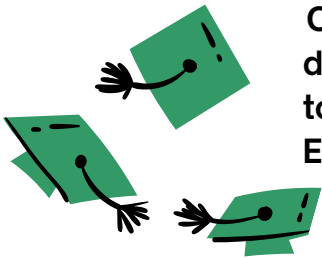
The nomination period runs through **March 15, 2024**. Nominations can be submitted by any 4-H member, family, supporter, or Extension staff member. Nominees must fit the award categories and can be a volunteer for any Nebraska 4-H experience. Some examples may include 4-H club leader, project leader, junior leader, county or State Fair volunteer, special interest volunteer (such as robotics or shooting sports), afterschool club volunteer or 4-H camp volunteer. More information, along with the nomination form, is available online at: <https://4h.unl.edu/volunteer-recognition>.

Winners will be announced virtually in **April 2024**. A special awards presentation will take place at the 2024 Nebraska State Fair.

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.



County Fair Updates

County Fair Theme:

- Butler County Fair: Your Faircation Destination!

County Fair Schedule Changes/Reminders:

- **July 2**
 - Culinary Challenge - 10 am
 - Fashion Show - 2 pm - Modeling is JUDGED at the Fashion Show!
 - Exhibit Hall Set-Up
- **July 6**
 - Fairgrounds Clean-Up
- **July 9**
 - Butler County 4-H Horse Show - 8 am
- **July 14**
 - Livestock + Static Release - 6 pm

First Day of Spring
March 19



Easter Holiday
March 31

Around Butler County + Beyond

Butler County 4-H Youth Enhancing 4-H Experiences

Each month, if we have submissions, youth will be featured on this page of things they did that month that enhances their 4-H experience. Share photos and details with Aliessa by the end of each month!

Danica Romshek - Omaha Fashion Week

Omaha Fashion Week's Spring 2024 season of fashion and audacity kicked off with the future generations of fashion showing nearly 200 creations, featuring high school-age programs from around the state and students in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Textiles, Merchandising, and Fashion Design Program. Omaha Fashion Week is highlighting themes of reckless self-expression during our Spring 2024 Audacious Season. As they focus on fashion-for-good their honor the audacity it takes to use our voices to create meaningful change in our communities.

Guests arrived at the Omaha Design Center and rushed to take photos by FotoFunSpot on the Milan Laser Red Carpet and enjoyed music from Hurricane Cole. Sarah Fili of KETV hosted with grace and attitude. OFW witnessed the beginning of many young creatives' journey into design during their Student Night Designer Showcase, and are envisioning them as future Emerging, Featured, and eventually Headlining designers. The first half of the show started with high-school-age fashion design programs from all over Nebraska including: 4-H, Duchesne Academy, FCCLA, Kent Bellows Mentoring Program, Omaha South, Westside HS, and Bluebird Cultural Initiative. The collection included youth who sewn their garments in 2023; 32 were selected to participate in the 4-H collection.

Prior to the Fashion Show, hair styling was done by the students of SOHO Hair Academy in Council Bluffs and were extremely accommodating! Fashion Week took place at the Omaha Design Center and has become one of the Midwest's largest fashion events. "This is a great opportunity to feature the outstanding work of our 4-H designers at a regional level, and partnership with Omaha Fashion Week" according to Marie Nelson, UNL Extension Assistant.





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.

State Fair Livestock Nominations

State Fair Nominations will be online again this year and nominations are now open via www.showstockmgr.com. State Fair tags and DNA envelopes are available at the Extension Office. The deadline for **ALL** online nominations and DNA envelopes returned to the Extension Office is **June 15**.

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 Aliessa 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.

Youth for Quality Care of Animals - YQCA

Quality Assurance will be offered through the program YQCA, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals again this year! Aliessa Meusch will be offering **face-to-face sessions** at the Highway 92 Building and is available to conduct training at club meeting as her schedule allows. You can contact Aliessa at aliesha.meusch@unl.edu to set up a time. The deadline for quality assurance is **June 15**. Certificates are due to Aliessa in order to have a confirmation training was completed. **NEW:** There will be no reimbursement for YQCA this year! If you can't attend in-person, you can attend a surrounding county or complete the training online.

Registering for quality assurance will be online at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>, using the Family 4-H Online login information for active youth. If you are in both 4-H and FFA, please register through the 4-H login option. Face-to-face sessions cost \$3 and online sessions cost \$12. This is 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. Youth only need to attend ONE training to obtain certification.** Trainings will be held at the Highway 92 Building.

Saturday, March 9

10 - 11 am

Monday, April 1

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Friday, May 31

10 - 11 am

Wednesday, June 5

5 - 6 pm

PASE

Premier Animal Science Event University of Nebraska-Lincoln June 20-21

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



The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status.
Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination.



Butler County 4-H Communication Event



April 7

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”



4-H HORSE STAMPEDE

Saturday, March 23, 2024 8:00am Lincoln, NE

The Nebraska 4-H Horse Stampede offers a variety of 4-H horse contests that do not require live animals, including public speaking, demonstration, quiz bowl, two art divisions (2D/3D), and photography contests. Youth between the ages of 10-18 have the opportunity to display their equine knowledge through these contests both as an individual and as part of a team. Online entries will also be allowed this year!

The 4-H Horse Stampede is held annually at the Animal Science Complex at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln.

There is a \$10 entry fee per participant. Event shirts are also available for pre-order.

Nebraska 4-H Horse show dress code is required for all in-person contests. Please see the Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide for details. Exception: No hats or headgear are permitted.

For More
Information
Contact

Lena Luck

lena.luck@unl.edu

Online Entries Due
March 4th

Contest rules and entry forms are available at
4h.unl.edu/horse/stampede



BIG RED CAMPS

Cost: \$575-\$800
(varies by camp; covers lodging & meals, supplies, and other expenses as applicable - field trip expenses, uniforms, etc.)
Limited scholarships are available!

[HTTPS://4H.UNL.EDU/BIG-RED-CAMPS](https://4h.unl.edu/big-red-camps)

Nebraska 4-H facilitates multiple, simultaneously run Big Red Summer Camps at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This week long experience was created to give young people a better understanding of the college life experience based upon future careers of interest. We work to provide an experiential learning opportunity for all program participants. Campers come from across Nebraska and the nation.

WHY BIG RED CAMPS?

- An enriched learning opportunity, in a safe and inclusive environment, designed to provide hands-on postsecondary and workplace experiences
- Experience life on a college campus
- Network with local, area, regional, and/or state University faculty and staff as well as business & industry experts
- Gain knowledge to pursue a wide variety of postsecondary and/or career options
- Attain college and career readiness knowledge and skills and earn a digital badge
- A highlight of the week is the capstone project presentation for parents/guardians/chaperones/guests

2024 CAMP SESSIONS

- ROOTED in Agriculture
- Animation
- The Art of Teaching: Inspiring Minds, Igniting Potential
- Discover Fashion: Clothing Design, Sustainability, & the Future of Textiles
- Discover Cryptography
- AGAM Discover Digital Media
- Discover Engineering
- Discover Esports
- Physics of Earth
- Discover Speech, Hearing, & Special Education
- STEM Odyssey
- Discover Unicameral Youth Legislature
- Discover Veterinary Science
- Discover Weather & Climate Science

STATE CONTACTS

Dr. Dawn Lindsley, Program Director

Claire Swanson,
Assistant Camp Director
BigRedCamps@unl.edu

PARTICIPANTS STATE THIS PROGRAM HAS HELPED THEM...
100% LEARN NEW INFORMATION
99% GAIN COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS SKILLS
(75 YOUTH, 2022 EVALUATION)

