



CASS COUNTY

Youth Changing the World Through 4-H Community Service

In 2017, Cass County 4-H member Mary DeGraff, 18, received the Diamond Clover Program’s “Diamond Award,” the highest honor in Nebraska 4-H. This award requires a major service-learning project that benefits the community. DeGraff’s project involved raising \$24,000 to purchase a fully functional pet disaster relief trailer for the American Kennel Club (AKC) and Cass County Emergency Management Agency.

- DeGraff raised over \$12,000 from numerous fundraisers and donations. AKC provided a \$12,000 match.
- The trailer will shelter animals during disasters such as tornadoes, fires or floods.
- It is available to emergency management agencies throughout Nebraska.



4-H'er Mary DeGraff (center) standing with Cass County Commissioners Dan Henry (left) and Janet McCartney (right)

4-H Horse Judging Team Learns Life Skills

Alexis Penke and Teara Rieflin, two Cass County 4-H'ers, teamed up with two Douglas-Sarpy 4-H'ers to compete at the Nebraska State Horse Judging contest and were state champions! The contest emphasized 4-H'ers knowledge of horses. Their accomplishment qualified them to represent Nebraska at the National Horse Judging Contest in Denver. By working as a team, these youth learned life skills such as cooperation, communication and critical thinking.

“Judging has given me confidence in how to defend what I believe in. I’ve grown in public speaking, in problem solving and being a better supporter of my teammates. I couldn’t imagine my life without judging because it has changed me in ways I could never have expected.”

— Alexis Penke, 4-H member



4-H Grows True Leaders

This summer, 22 4-H workshops were held in Cass County. 4-H member Joslyn Stamp, 9 years old, took a leadership role by conducting a workshop focused on her nationally recognized talent in baton twirling.

“From this experience I learned that I like to teach. Teaching the workshop made me happy. I am thankful to 4-H for the opportunity to teach. Not many places would give a kid a chance to be a teacher and a leader. The 4-H kids were easy to teach because they were happy, patient, and good listeners.”

— Joslyn Stamp, 4-H member



Visit cass.unl.edu for more information.

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