



Volume 18, Issue 1

## Cass County 4-H Newsletter

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January 2018

## Welcome Brett Kreifels, new Cass County 4-H Extension Educator and Unit Leader

December 14th was a happy day at the Cass County Extension Office as we held a welcome party for our new educator, Brett Kreifels. A big thank you is extended to all the 4-Hers, 4-H Clubs, and supporters who helped prepare the festivities for the day.





4-H Enrollment and Event Registration

**Question:** Does everyone have to re-enroll each year?

**Answer: YES!** **Everyone** has to re-enroll! Clover Kids, 4-Hers, leaders and volunteers.

Here is a great resource for projects, apps, and information. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to get it all!!!

<https://4h.unl.edu/resources>

## A New 4-H Year Begins!

At the beginning of each new 4-H year, here are some things to think about:

1. Invite new members to join,
2. Elect new officers,
3. Select a club project, and
4. Plan the year by setting meeting dates, project talks, activities, demonstrations, refreshments, field trips, community service projects, etc.
5. Record your plans and give each club family a copy.



Helpful club, leader, officer, meeting and 4-H resources are available at <http://4h.unl.edu/clubs/resources#leader> Check it out!

I love 4-H! A large green four-leaf clover with the letters "H" on each leaf.

## 2018 4-H Projects and Resources



All across Nebraska 4-H youth are beginning to select their 4-H projects for 2018! Let the **Nebraska 4-H Pick Your Project** help connect you with projects that fit your interests and skill levels!

The interactive, web-based Nebraska 4-H Pick Your Project is found online at <http://4hcurriculum.unl.edu>. Using the Pick Your Project, youth, volunteers, and parents will be able to search for projects by keywords, curriculum areas, knowledge levels, and geographic level.

As an added feature, the web-based Pick Your Project contains the same project codes that are shown in the [4HOnline Enrollment](#) system, making it easier to match the exciting 4-H projects you are learning about in the Pick Your Project with the projects you are enrolling in through 4HOnline.

Explore over 150 Nebraska 4-H projects through the Nebraska 4-H Pick Your Project and find the 4-H projects that will help you grow throughout 2018!

Awesome  
Resources!



Cass County 8400 144th Street, Suite 100 | Weeping Water, NE 68463 | 402-267-2205 | <http://casslunl.edu>



## Nebraska Extension and 4-H in Cass County

### January Workshop Announcement

# 3D PRINTER AND LASER CUTTER MACHINE

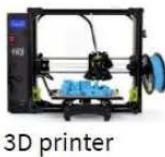
#### Laser Cutter and 3D Printer Demo I

Thursday, January 11

5:45 pm to 7:15 pm

Plattsmouth Public Library

Registration Limit: 3 to 8 participants



3D printer

#### Laser Cutter and 3D Printer Demo II

Saturday, January 13

9:30 am to 11:00 am

Plattsmouth Public Library

Registration Limit: 3 to 8 participants

Cass County 4-H is partnering with the Plattsmouth Public Library to offer 2 workshops in January! Come see a demo on how to run the 3D printer and laser cutter machines, and receive samples of simple projects you can make with this equipment. We will walk through how to run the machines, websites to use for free patterns, and discuss various ideas for projects. It's great way to jumpstart your year! Two different times are being offered for the same workshop, so you won't miss out on this fun and interesting opportunity!

**Pre-register for this class by calling the Extension 4-H Office at 402-267-2205  
or send an email to [cass-county@unl.edu](mailto:cass-county@unl.edu). Deadline is January 5th, 2018.**

## Crop Programming Opportunities

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Innovative Youth Corn Challenge

Do you enjoy being outside? Learning new things about crops? Considering a career involving crops, insects, diseases, soils, water or more? Do you want to help figure out how to feed our world's growing population in a sustainable way?

Nebraska Extension and the Nebraska Corn Board are offering the seventh Innovative Youth Corn Challenge contest. This contest, open to 4-H members (age 10 & older as of Jan. 1st) or FFA members (in-school members), guides participants through all aspects of corn production, as well as agricultural careers related to corn production.

As a team (2 or more participants), youth will be challenged to implement a production practice different than normal to determine if they increased their yield. Economics and sustainability of the practice will also be considered. Yields, cropping history, and production information will be collected in the Corn Yield Challenge management summary.

Cash prizes and plaques are given. First place receives \$1,000, second place receives \$500, and third place receives \$250. Sustainability, crop scouting and "extra mile" awards are also given as cash awards. To participate in 2018, youth must complete and return an entry form by **March 15<sup>th</sup>** to the Fillmore County Extension Office in Geneva, NE. Forms can be downloaded after January 1<sup>st</sup> at [cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/activities](http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/activities). For more information, contact Brandy VanDeWalle at [brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu](mailto:brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu).



## Youth Crop Scouting Competition

**Written by Brandy VanDeWalle  
Fillmore/Clay Counties**

Nebraska Extension also offers the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Crop Scouting Competition for Nebraska youth. This contest is at the ARDC near Mead, Nebraska on **July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. The event includes indoor and outdoor events. Teams of junior high and high school students (those completing 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades) are invited to participate.

Clubs or other organizations may enter a team composed of three to five participants. An adult team leader must accompany each team. Team leaders could be FFA advisors, crop consultants, extension staff, coop employees, etc.

Top-scoring teams win prizes: \$500 for first, \$250 for second, \$100 for third place. Top two teams are eligible for regional competition in August at Nebraska.

Teams are expected to know basics of scouting corn and soybean fields. This includes crop staging; looking for patterns of crop injury; disease, insect and weed seedling identification; etc. Other topics may include but are not limited to, pesticide safety, nutrient disorders, and herbicide injury.

More information about the crop scouting competition and instructions on how to register a team are available online at [cropwatch.unl.edu/youth](http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth).

Teams must be registered by July 16<sup>th</sup>. This program is sponsored by DuPont Pioneer, Nebraska Independent Crop Consultant Association and Nebraska Extension.

# School Enrichment

Our Extension Educator, Brett Kreifels, and our Extension Assistant, Tracy Ensor, are presenting many fun and outstanding 4-H curriculum based enrichment lessons at the public schools. 4-Hers, if you would like them to bring some lessons and activities to your classrooms, mention it to your teachers. School enrichment brochures are available at the Extension Office as well as on-line at: <http://bit.ly/2j4wCfv>. Get a copy for your classroom(s).



4-H Camp brochures will be coming out soon! It's not too early to look over the options and decided what you want to do this summer.

## Year End Reports

Club leaders! Thank you for all your hard work throughout the past year. It is once again time to have your Club Treasurer file the 2017 Fiscal Year report. Please fill out the form in its entirety and as accurately as possible. Please use "N/A" or enter "0" on any spaces that are blank. This information is used as part of our required reporting to the IRS, and is important to complete and submit to Tracy by January 31. Clubs that turn in forms past that date may lose their status, so please try to complete this in a timely manner. A blank report can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/2yf3dAN>.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy at [tracy.ensor@unl.edu](mailto:tracy.ensor@unl.edu). Thank you for all you do for 4-H and Cass County! ~ Tracy

## Community Service



Did you know you can publish the awesome and worthy service projects your 4-Hers are doing? Go to <https://4h.unl.edu/community-service-map> and submit your community service project. Take a look - it's very cool what's happening in Nebraska!

## Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Certification Workshop Offered in Lincoln

Source: Steve Pritchard

A Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Certification Workshop is scheduled in Lincoln in January. It will be held January 20-21 at the Nebraska Game & Parks Outdoor Education Center in Lincoln. The deadline to register for the Lincoln session is January 10<sup>th</sup>.



Volunteers have the opportunity to become certified as an adult (21 years and older) or apprentice (14-20 years old) leader. Five project areas will be offered at the Lincoln Workshop - rifle, pistol, muzzleloading, archery, and a new discipline, coordinator. The new certification being offered in Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports, County Coordinator, is for County staff who work with certified shooting sports leaders, 4-H club leaders for shooting sports projects, 4-H volunteers managing shooting sports events/competitions.

Coordinators will explore and learn more about the different disciplines in 4-H Shooting Sports, how to support the different types of coaches, structuring a budget, designing a fund-raising plan, build an overall plan focused on Positive Youth Development, practice handling conflict with parents, discover how to manage and recruit volunteers, best practices for managing events and competitions, teaching more than just shooting with science and healthy lifestyles, and work within your county's 4-H structure.

There is a minimum number of participants needed to offer these disciplines at the workshop. Workshop participants will learn under expert instruction from members of the Nebraska State 4-H Shooting Sports Training Team.

The registration fee is \$110.00 per person for initial certification and those individuals adding an additional discipline. This fee includes meals, supplies and program materials. Participants must make their own lodging arrangements. Registration on Saturday runs from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

For more workshop information and registration link, go to the [4-H Shooting Sports web page](#). Registration is available only online at the link provided in the brochure or you can register directly by clicking [HERE](#).



Have you heard of [FIRST Tech Challenge](#)?

[FIRST Tech Challenge](#) is designed for those youth in Grades 7-12 who want to compete head to head, using a sports model. Teams are responsible for designing, building, and programming their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. The robot kit is reusable from year-to-year and is programmed using a variety of languages. Teams, including coaches, mentors and volunteers, are required to develop strategy and build robots based on sound engineering principles. Awards are given for the competition as well as for community outreach, design, and other real-world accomplishments.

- Design, build, and program robots
- Apply real-world math and science concepts
- Develop problem-solving, organizational, and team-building skills
- Compete and cooperate in alliances and tournaments

So are you interested? Because we would love to have you volunteer at the **Nebraska Championship on Saturday, February 10, 2018!** A volunteer role description can be found at <https://go.unl.edu/xfgk> for you to review to see where you just might fit best! Our event will be held in **Grand Island at the Raising Nebraska Building**. This event will start bright and early at 7:00 AM for most volunteers and end approximately around 5:30 PM.

### Please consider registering as a volunteer!

\* All volunteers MUST register with FIRST at <https://www.firstinspires.org>. This is a basic step-by-step process where you create an account or login and sign up for the various roles you may be interested in. Please note, you will select Nebraska, the FIRST Tech Challenge program and our Championship will be appear to start the registration process. Additional information will be provided as you go. If you have any questions or troubleshooting needs, email [bwagner5@unl.edu](mailto:bwagner5@unl.edu).

FIRST in Nebraska, is successful because of the wonderful volunteers at these events. We could not provide this experience for these students without the dedication from amazing people like you. We are ALWAYS looking for new volunteers so spread the word!

Questions? Contact Brandy Wagner at [bwager5@unl.edu](mailto:bwager5@unl.edu) or at 402-472-9023. I look forward to seeing all of you in the next couple of months!

## Awesome News from the State Office!!! Nebraska has been awarded the Ag Innovators grant for 2018!!!

### *Monarchs on the Move*

For the fifth year, National 4-H Council (Council) is proud to collaborate with Monsanto for the annual Ag Innovators Experience (AIE) that will provide 5,000 youth in five (5) selected states, from urban, suburban and rural backgrounds, the opportunity to develop the workforce skills to feed the planet. The AIE will drive youth awareness of, and interest in, agriculture innovation and agriculture careers. States eligible for the AIE Implementation application include IA, IL, KS, MI, MO, NE and OH.

In 2018, 5,000 youth from across these states will participate in the ***Monarch on the Move Challenge***, an educational activity focusing on the importance of biodiversity to agriculture, specifically as related to monarch butterfly habitats. The ***Monarch on the Move Challenge*** will engage youth as researchers as they simulate the needs of a caterpillar identifying the many factors that play a role in their reproduction and survival. Then, using given land plot samples, teams will design effective agricultural practices that promote biodiversity. Teams will be challenged to provide evidence to support their strategies. When possible, learning venues will engage participants in a seed planting, exemplifying how everyone can contribute to biodiversity which, ultimately, helps secure food production for a growing world population.



In Nebraska we are looking for 20 teens (we can take more) to help us teach this program across the state to reach our state goal of 1000 youth. Several of you have reached out already. This is the official ask:

**If you are interested in participating, please contact your new educator, Brett Kreifels.  
If you are interested in serving as one of our three lead teens and can attend training  
in Ames, IA on February 2-4, 2018 at Iowa State University, please talk to Brett.  
You will need a statement as to why you want to be on the state training team.**

**Stay tuned. There's a lot more information to come about this opportunity!**

**Written by Lisa Kaslon  
District 4-H Coordinator UNL**

## **Martha and Don Romeo Scholarship** *(deadline was December 1, 2017)*

Congratulations to Mackenzie Stohlman and Michael Stackpole - Cass County local winners. Their applications will be sent on to the state level.

## **Freel/Lepert 4-H Family Scholarship** *(deadline March 1, 2018)*

Two \$250 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors with plans to continue their formal education following graduation from a Cass County high school. The applicants must meet the following criteria: Plan to attend an accredited trade school or college; minimum 3.0 PSA; Involvement in school and community activities; Enrolled in the 4-H program through Cass County, NE; Return a completed application to the Cass County Extension Office by March 1, 2017. [The Freel/Lepert 4-H Family Scholarship application is online.](#)

## **Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards** *(deadline approximately March 15, 2018)*

The Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards (NACEB) Scholarship Program offers scholarships for the current academic year. Scholarship Includes: One \$1,000 scholarship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) or in the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS) for an incoming student (freshmen or transfer student) | One \$500 scholarship for a current student (sophomore or higher) enrolled in CASNR or CEHS. [\(The NACEB application is available on-line\)](#)

## **Weeping Water Whiz Kidz Scholarship** *(deadline April 1, 2018)*

This is a local Cass County Scholarship, presented by one of our very own Cass County 4-H Clubs—The Weeping Water Whiz Kidz. Applicants must be a senior who is a Cass County resident and who has actively participated in the Cass County 4-H program at least not limited to, two of his/her high school years. [The application is available on-line.](#)

## **Quilts of Valor**

**As you begin  
planning projects  
for the fair, consider  
Quilts of Valor:**



Nebraska 4-H youth, families, and volunteers are invited to participate in a statewide community service effort by creating and donating quilts to the service men and women who are protecting our country and who are "touched by war." The quilts will be collected and given through the [Quilts of Valor Foundation](#).

4-H members and volunteers can work alone or in groups to make the quilts. Donations of fabric, batting or machine-quilting may be located in order to complete the project. Service organizations or other donors in the community may help provide funds for the Quilt of Valor. The quilts may then be entered in [county fairs](#) and the [Nebraska State Fair](#) in the citizenship, quilt quest, or design decisions project areas.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please review the [Nebraska 4-H Quilts of Valor Statewide Guidelines](#).

The Quilts of Valor Presentation will be held at the Nebraska State Fair. For times and locations, please see the [4-H State Fair schedule](#).

Thank you for your support of the United States military!



## 2018 Special Garden Project Delft Blue Nigella



\*Photo courtesy of Johnny's Select Seeds

This project is open to all youth of 4-H age and it will give them the opportunity to learn about growing, harvesting, preparing, and exhibiting this unique flower.

The Special Gardening Project lets 4-H members try their hand at growing unusual vegetables and flowers. 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.

### 4-H members enrolled in the Special Garden Project will:

- Receive a 'packet' of Delft Blue Nigella (one packet per youth) in March/April
- Receive a newsletter about:
  - Planting & growing nigella
  - Nigella problems & insects
  - Harvesting & using nigella
- Be able to exhibit this unique flower at County and State Fair
  - State Fair Special Garden Project Educational Exhibit Class G-775-001
  - State Fair Special Garden Project Fresh Cut Flowers or Harvested Vegetables G-775-002 NEW
  - Other fun county only ways to exhibit this unique flower like a story, poem, or poster. Each county is different so be sure to check with your local Extension Office.
- Complete an evaluation about their growing experience: <https://go.unl.edu/delftbluenigella>

Enroll for the 2018 Special Garden Project through 4-H Online and contact your local Nebraska Extensions Office to order packets of seeds. The Extension Office will order and distribute the seeds.

**IMPORTANT: If you want Nigella seeds this year, please contact the Extension Office by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. This is a firm date. We will order the seeds for you and contact you when they arrive. THANKS!**

\*Delft Blue Nigella photo courtesy of Johnny's Select Seeds, Johnnyseeds.com, 1-877-564-6697

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**4-H Today** has some very cool articles. Take a look: <http://mailchi.mp/4-h/4-h-today-november-789173?e=f66ac5f3dd> See what's happening in 4-H around the country!



## 2018 4-H Council

The 2018 4-H Council members begin their term at the January 15th Council Meeting at 6:45. Dinner will be served and we all want to say, "Thank you for serving! We know you will represent us well in 2018!"

Adult members include: Heather Ackman, Teresa Hawks, Dennis Heim, Brandi Lambert, Diane Mills, Cindy Penke, Stephanie Schafer, Jenny Schroll, and Doug Wehrbein.

Youth members include: Austin Hawks, Lily Korytowski, Morgan Mills, Erin Muntz, Lexi Penke, Teara Rieflin, Allison Uhe, Shay Uhe, and Kate Zakaras.

## **Communication**

The bulk of the communication from the Extension Office happens by email. Paper copy newsletters are only sent to those who request them. If you need/want a paper copy, you must contact the Extension Office (no matter what you entered into 4HOnline)

## **KUDOS**

KUDOS to the Cass County 4-Hers who have registered for the 2020 Citizenship Washington Focus trip to Washington D.C.: Tucker Oehlerking, Sophia Vercellino, Rylan Meyer, and Jenna Muntz! There are still spots open if you can go ... It will be a trip of a lifetime! Contact the office for details!

## **Annual Training meeting for Cass County 4-H Leaders and Volunteers**

### **4-H Volunteer Training**

Monday, February 5, Cass County, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Cass County Extension Office Meeting Room  
Monday, February 26, Otoe County, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Otoe County Extension Office Meeting Room

### **Training for All New and Veteran 4-H Volunteers!**

Items to be discussed:

Why 4-H?

4-H Curriculum – Four New Foods Projects and Three New Food Preservation Projects

Recognizing Youth Efforts and Accomplishments

Nebraska 4-H Foundation Resources

4-H Websites

Q and A – to answer ALL your 4-H questions

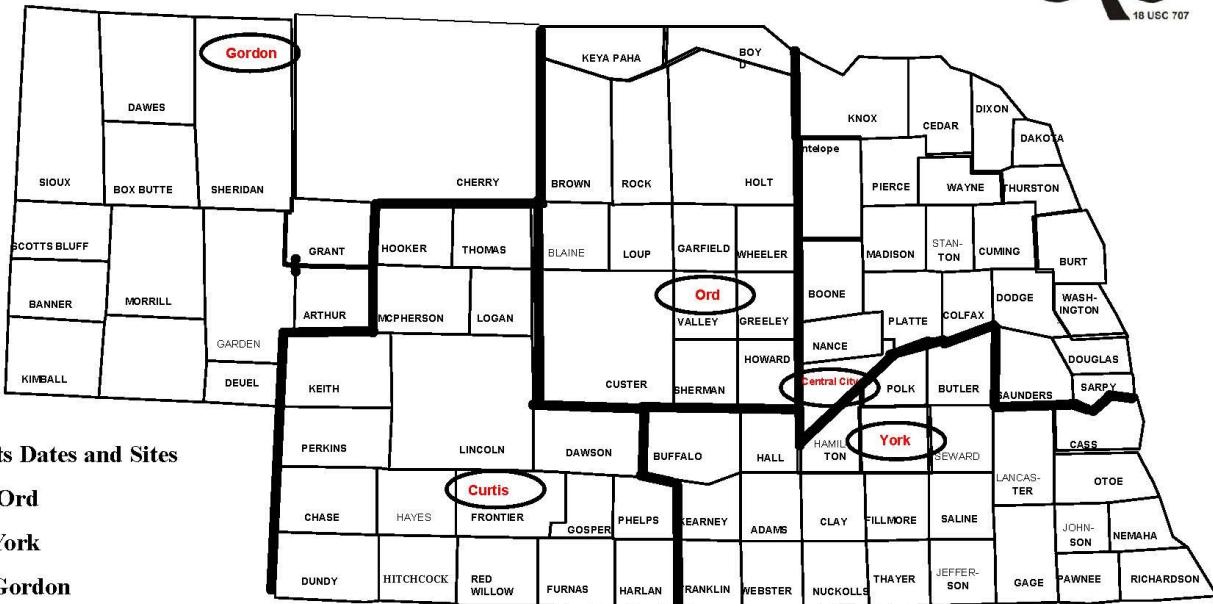
Networking time for 4-H leaders

# 2018 Horse Project Information ....

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## 2018 NEBRASKA DISTRICT 4-H HORSE SHOWS all entries due to county office **May 11, 2018**

Note: **ALL** Level testing required for participation in the 2018 District 4-H Horse Shows **MUST** be completed by **MAY 11, 2018**



### 2018 Districts Dates and Sites

- June 13<sup>th</sup> – Ord
- June 14<sup>th</sup> – York
- June 20<sup>th</sup> – Gordon
- June 21<sup>th</sup> – Central City
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Curtis

**Reminder:** All Entries for the State Horse Show must be mailed by May 11, 2018. These include Showmanship, Halter, All Cattle Classes, Hunter Hack, Dressage, Advanced Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Pleasure and Horsemanship, Trail, 2 year old and 3 year old Western Pleasure and Working Ranch.

2018 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show July 15-19, 2018

District 4-H Horse Show website: <https://4h.unl.edu/horse/district-shows>



## 4-H ADVANCEMENT LEVEL STUDY COURSES

Prepare for the advancement level tests 1 and 2

**Beginning Horseman: 4-H Advancement Level 1 Study Course**  
**Intermediate Horseman: 4-H Advancement Level 2 Study Course**

To get access to courses, please visit: <http://4h.unl.edu/horse/advancement>  
 For more information contact Lena Luck at [lena.luck@unl.edu](mailto:lena.luck@unl.edu).  
**Cost: \$10** per course for a 3-months subscription  
 For youth 8-18 years

**NEXTENSION**

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Nebraska Lincoln

Good Luck to

Lexie Penke and Teara Rieflin and their team as they compete at the National Horse Judging Contest at the Denver Stock Show in January!!!!



Horse Project members: Prepare for the advancement level tests 1 and 2. To get access to courses, please visit: <http://4h.unl.edu/horse/advancement>. For more information contact Lena Luck at [lena.luck@unl.edu](mailto:lena.luck@unl.edu). The cost is \$10.00 per course for a 3-months subscription. This is for youth ages 8 to 17 years.

# Cass County 4-H Calendar ....

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# 2018 JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Dec 30th 4-H Market Beef Weigh-in 9am-11am At the Fair- grounds.  	1  Office Closed	2 Enroll in ne.4HOnline	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Registration deadline for shooting sports certification workshop	11 Winter Workshop 3D Printer & Lazer Cutter DEMO #1 5:45 - 7:15 pm at the Plattsmouth Library	12	13 Beef tagging 9-11 and Winter Workshop 3D Printer & Lazer Cutter DEMO #2 9:30 - 11:00 am at the Plattsmouth Library
14	15 4-H Council Meeting with dinner	16	17	18	19	20 Day 1-Shooting Sports Certification Workshop for volunteers
21 Day 2-Shooting Sports Certification Workshop for volunteers	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Deadline for ordering seeds for the 2018 Special Garden Project  4-H Club year end reports due	Looking Ahead: Important 2018 4-H Leader and Volunteer Training: <b>Option 1:</b> Monday, February 5th 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Cass County Extension Office <b>Option 2:</b> Monday, February 26th 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Otoe County Extension Office		

## Agricultural News around the area:

[2018 Master Gardener Program Applications now Available](#)

[2018 Great Plains Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference](#)

[Recycle Old and Non-Working Holiday Lights](#)

[2018 Three-State Beef Conference](#)

[Farm Beginnings 2018](#)

Private Pesticide Training Class in Cass County—March 15th

Need a Farm Record Book?

We have them available at the Extension Office.

### Cass County DinoCapture Pro Digital Microscope

Did you know? ... In the Cass County Extension Office we have a digital microscope camera. If you have leaf damage, weeds, bugs, etc., bring a specimen to the office. We will take a photo with our microscope camera, send it to the university for diagnostics, and will report back to you what it is, suggestions as to what to do, etc.

Questions, call the office 402-267-2205.



Issues • Innovation • Impact

A Part of the Cooperative Extension System

### Ask an Expert

Have questions about gardening? Here's the link to an excellent, easy, informative way to get answers.

Type in a question and receive a expert answers and help from Extension/University staff and volunteers from across the United States.

<https://ask.extension.org/ask>



### Brett Kreifels

Extension Educator—Youth Development  
Cass County Unit Leader  
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### Tracy Ensor

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### Sondra Buell

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4-H registrations: [ne.4HOnline.com](http://ne.4HOnline.com)

Facebook: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Cass County