4-H News & Notes
March 4, 2016

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Cedar County 4-H Website: www.cedar.unl.edu then click on Cedar County 4-H in the red navigation menu across the top of the page
Nebraska 4-H Website: http://4h.unl.edu

Important Dates
March is Bake & Take Month
March 15 - 4-H Re-Enrollment Deadline
March 28 – 4-H Public Speaking Contest
April 1 – 4-H Council Senior Scholarships Due
April 5 – Leader Training
April 15 - Late Re-enrollment dues assessed $5 late fee
April 15 – Big Red Camp Early Bird Discount Deadline
April 15 – State 4-H Summer Camps Early Bird Discount Deadline

2016 Save the Dates
Pre-Fair Day
Saturday, July 9
Cedar County Fair
July 20-24

County Photography Theme
Groups of 4

County Challenge – Horseshoes
Create an interesting fair exhibit using horseshoes.

4-H Enrollment Deadline is March 15
https://ne.4honline.com

At this time we have approximately 150 youth enrolled in the 2016 Cedar County 4-H program. The deadline for 4-H enrollment is fast approaching. All enrollments for members, Clover Kids and volunteers (new this year) are to be completed by March 15. Members who are re-enrolling will only need to update their profile (do not setup a new profile) and project listing. New members will need to create a family profile or if the family is already enrolled will only need to add a member. Go to the Cedar County 4-H webpage – www.cedar.unl.edu then click on Cedar County 4-H in the red navigation menu. When on the Cedar County 4-H webpage, click on 4-H enrollment link or scroll down to the 4-H Enrollment Forms section, there you will find a “2016 4-H Enrollment – Online” link to the Nebraska 4honline. You will also find step-by-step instructions for reenrollment, new member or volunteer enrollment scenarios, and the Project Resource Central Guide, and our county project listing. If you have any questions please contact the office.

4-H Dues for each 4-H member or clover kid will be $5.00 with the 4-H horse project participants’ dues being $6.00, and archery club membership is an additional $10.00. All dues will be used to pay for 4-H programming in Cedar County. The dues also covers the cost of a supplemental insurance which is $2 for horse participants and $1 for all other 4-H members. Leaders and volunteers may also purchase this insurance coverage for the cost of $1 if they so wish. The insurance provides coverage to and from 4-H sponsored activities as long as an adult is present, this includes 4-H club meetings. Please give your dues to your club leader or send into the Extension Office. Please make checks out to Cedar County 4-H Council.

Volunteers - Parents willing to lend a hand within the 4-H program are asked to enroll as a volunteer. This is a great opportunity for you as a parent to assist your child and others in learning life skills they will carry into the future. Nebraska Extension also requires all volunteers to be screened through the Department of Health and Human Services for child abuse and neglect. The database is updated every four years on a district rotation. Our district is scheduled to be updated this year so all volunteers are asked to complete a screening process even if you have done it before. The 4-H Volunteer Screening Form is available on our Cedar County 4-H page under the enrollment section. There is also a link to it in 4honline. Click on the link to open the file or save it to your computer. Print the file, complete, and send to the State 4-H Office (address is on the form), or you may send it to the Extension Office and we will be happy to forward it for you. This screening enables the 4-H program to assure you that we are providing a safe, positive, and nurturing environment for your child.
4-H Public Speaking Contest

Start preparing your speeches and PSAs, the 4-H Public Speaking Contest will be March 28 at 6:30 at the Extension Office. Flyer for rules and registration information was in the February newsletter. The flyer and guides for preparing great speeches & PSAs and more related information can be found on our Cedar County 4-H webpage under the contests section.

What is Happening in 4-H This Year?

There will be a leader training on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm at the Extension Office. Come & discover the new changes within the 4-H program. All 4-H clubs are encouraged to have a representative attend and this training is also open to all 4-H families.

4-H Saturdays

Dixon & Dakota Counties are offering 4-H Saturdays in 2016 where you can learn new skills through several hands-on projects. See 4-H webpage for more details. Contact the respective county extension office for workshops you are interested in.

Clover Kid Saturdays

Dixon County Extension will be offering clover kid classes where youth will learn about the senses and do activities that can be exhibited at the fair. See attached flyer and the 4-H webpage for more details. To register please contact the Dixon County Extension at 402-584-2234.

Bake & Take Month

A gift from your heart, made by your hands. This is a time to demonstrate your care and concern for an elderly or shut-in in your community, or do something special for a teacher, neighbor, or friend, by baking an item and take it to them. Time spent visiting with the recipient of your baked good can be one of the most rewarding aspects. For recipe cards & stickers to place on packages of home baked goods contact wheat.board@nebraska.gov.

Senior Scholarships

Cedar County 4-H Council Senior Scholarship applications were mailed out the 1st of March. If you are a senior in high school but did not receive an application please contact the office. Also, NACEB Scholarship for UNL applications due March 15th. Visit our Cedar County 4-H webpage under the scholarship opportunities for a links to scholarships.

Shooting Sports Leader Certification Workshop

We have so many youth interested in the archery program if we could get some more volunteers trained the next certification workshop is April 16 & 17 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Arlington. Visit http://4h.unl.edu/shootingsports to learn more about the program. Registration deadline is April 5 by going to https://goo.gl/qWPfSJ.

Beef Show is Blow & Go

The Beef Show at the Cedar County & Nebraska State Fairs are now Blow & Go; animals are clipped, blown and brushed or combed to enhance their appearance.

Guidelines for the Blow & Go Show:

1. 4-H beef animals will be shown free of any compounds that are applied by aerosol propellants.
2. Alcohol, water or any water- or alcohol-based products with no adhesive qualities are permitted.
3. Any compounds that have adhesive qualities or alter the color of the animal are forbidden.

Youth Horticulture ID Contest

The Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners will be hosting a Youth Horticulture ID Contest at their annual Plant Fair & Market. All youth ages 8-18 are encouraged to participate. Participation is free but all participants must preregister by April 22 by contacting the Nebraska Extension office in Madison County 402-370-4040. Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in each of the age brackets. Contestants will be required to sight ID horticultural plants to the accepted common name. The list of possible plants and study guides are available at http://madison.unl.edu/theplantfair

Contest Details

Date: Friday, April 29, 2016
Time: Competition begins 7:00 PM, Awards Presented 8:30 PM
Location: Chuck Pohlman Ag Complex, Northeast Community College, Norfolk
Prizes:
1st Place - $25 cash AND $25 gift certificate for the Master Gardener plant booths
2nd Place - $10 cash AND $15 gift certificate for booths
3rd Place - $10 gift certificate for booths

The ages for brackets are broken down as follows:
Junior – 8-11 years old
Intermediate – 12-14 years old
Senior – 15-18 years old

County Photography Theme
Groups of 4
Youth Volunteer Opportunity

The Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners could use your help. They hold an annual Plant Fair & Market at the Northeast Community College Chuck Pohlman Ag Complex in Norfolk and need volunteers to help with getting the patron’s items out to their vehicles. Wagons will be available. The plant fair is Friday, April 29, 6:00-8:00 pm and Saturday, April 30, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Call the Nebraska Extension office in Wayne County at 402-375-3310 by April 22 to sign up for a time that would work for you.

Hartington Community Garden

Anyone interested or would like more information concerning planting a garden area at the Hartington Community Gardens contact Claude Mathieson at 402-254-6973 or 402-841-0206. It is a great opportunity to grow your own vegetables and flowers and learn from those around you while cultivating friendships.

If anyone drinks Crystal Light please save your empty containers for Clover Kid camp to make first aid kits.

Interested in a Loan to Help Finance Your Farm Project?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans up to $5,000.00 to individual rural youths, ages 10 through 20, to establish and operate income-producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and must be initiated, developed, and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of an organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical agricultural business and educational experience. For more information about these loans, check out the Farm Service Agency’s national website, http://www.fsa.usda.gov, which has a link to “Youth Loans”. If you have additional questions on the Youth Loan Program or wish to apply for a loan, please contact the Cedar County Farm Service Agency, Dave Hansen, Farm Loan Manager 402-254-6855.

Poultry Ban Has Been Lifted

As of January 1 the Nebraska Department of Agriculture has officially lifted the ban on poultry shows, fairs and exhibitions that was put in place to prevent the spread of avian influenza last year. This is very exciting news and we will be happy to see the poultry at the fair this year!

2016 Special Garden Project

Jazzy Mix Zinnia

Unique range bicolor blooms are what make the Jazzy Mix Zinnia unique. This cultivar comes in shades of burgundy-red, red, yellow, and orange with cream, red, or yellow tips. The 1-2” blooms are fully-double and semi-double. These zinnias are a great cut flower that can get 20-26” tall. On average it will take about 75-85 days for the plants to bloom. Fair exhibit entries will include cut flowers, photograph, story or essay.

2016 4-H Culinary Challenge

Demonstrate healthy decision making through nutrition, menu planning, food preparation, and food safety during an interview with a judge and through a technology presentation during a contest at the Nebraska State Fair using the 2016 challenge ingredient SQUASH.

Interview Contest

The interview contest is an opportunity for members to practice the real-life skill of applying for a job. The contest involves a set of job descriptions that the members use to prepare for the process of applying and interviewing for a position. The member will develop a resume, write a cover letter, fill out a job application, and interview for the job. Contest will be May 26 in Norfolk. More details to come.

Trophies

Anyone interested in sponsoring a trophy or an award for any 4-H contests or at the Cedar County Fair please contact the Extension Office.

Summer Help Wanted

The Cedar County Extension Office will be accepting applications for a part time (20-25 hours) summer 4-H position from May 16 until July 29. Applicant must be at least 18 years old, have experience working with school age youth, and feel comfortable leading workshops and camps. Teachers or individuals pursuing degrees in Leadership or Education are encouraged to apply. Background knowledge of the Nebraska 4-H program is helpful but not required. Send cover letter and resume to the Extension Office. For more information contact Nebraska Extension Educator Jackie Steffen at 402-254-6821.