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## APRIL 2020 CLAY COUNTY NEWSLETTER

### COVID-19 IMPACT ON EXTENSION

Nebraska Extension Office in Clay County is closed to walk-in customers to help minimize in-person interactions. This decision by county supervisors to close the courthouse is to remain closed to walk-in customers until further notice. Holli and Deanna are county-paid staff so they are still working every day at the office and are available as usual by phone or emails.

So many un-certainties these days!!! We have had several questions about “will we have a fair?”. At this time, the answer is YES we are still planning on it. Pre-fair events may look different but we are trying to look ahead and go forward. Extension is trying to be creative with Virtual opportunities utilizing ZOOM.

**Fair Premium Books** are anticipated to go to the printers and should be finished in the next couple weeks. We have not solved how to distribute but will keep you posted on that. It will also be posted on the Clay County website. The State Fair book is already up and available to view so if you are wanting to check information for projects, please do so. The site is [4h.unl.edu/state-fair](http://4h.unl.edu/state-fair)

## Camps & Workshops

Clay/Fillmore Virtual Workshops – Clay/Fillmore Staff are excited to bring you some fun virtual 4-H workshops to help you prepare projects for the fair. These workshops are free to any youth between the ages of 8 – 19 years old. These sessions will allow youth to explore 4-H curriculum and start planning for fair exhibits. They are offered virtually using Zoom and require minimum supplies to participate. Sessions will be held Friday afternoons in April from 3:30 – 3:30 p.m.

To register for any or all of the workshops, please utilize a Google Doc form. The better way to locate this would be from the website. It is posted there and should give you a chance to click and enter.

All the April workshops will have the same Zoom link to allow you to join. You can connect at <http://unl.zoom.us/j/817882315>.

**April 10 – First Aid Safety.** Explore all the items of a basic first aid kit with Tim Lewis, Clay County Emergency Manager. Youth will learn what items are needed in a kit, how they work, and why they are important to have on hand. Youth will also brainstorm ideas for fair exhibits. If you have a kit at home, you are welcome to have it available to examine each item.

**April 17 – Cookies 101** – Join Holli Alley from her kitchen as she breaks down how to make purple ribbon cookies for the fair. Youth will learn how to measure dry and liquid ingredients using the correct tools. Youth will also learn how to pick the best cookies for the fair. Once registered Holli will email you a list of supplies needed if you want to bake with her!!

**April 24 – Plants, Plants, and More Plants** – join Brandy VanDeWalle as she explores the world of plants. Youth will learn how to grow quality plants and produce. Brandy will also explain how to exhibit your produce for fair.

## Clover Kids Online

If you missed the March online workshop, email Brandy and she will send it to you; it featured bubble art with an online video and project to take to the fair.

In April, kids will learn about dinosaurs on their own time and pace. Brandy will be posting information to the Facebook webpage and emailing those who have expressed interest in the Clover Kids meetings. Youth will create play dough and create “fossils” that can be dried and entered at the fair.

## Virtual and & At-Home Learning

Nebraska 4-H is gathering resources to support families as they are learning from home. Log into <https://4h.unl.edu/virtual-home-learning> for more information.

Living Room Learning is geared toward third-through fifth-graders, though younger and older kids can participate too.

Boredom Buster Challenge, a live video series geared toward middle schoolers and focused on entrepreneurship. For a schedule of upcoming Living Room Learning activities and past livestreams, visit <https://4h.unl.edu/living-room-learning>. For a schedule of past videos of the Boredom Buster Challenge visit [4h.unl.edu/boredom-buster-challenge](https://4h.unl.edu/boredom-buster-challenge).

**CAMPS** - At this exact time, it is un-know what or where any camps might take place. We will try to keep you as informed as we can. The 4-H site at [4h.unl.edu](https://4h.unl.edu) will be a good source to keep updated.

**Clay-Webster-Adams County Day Camp scheduled for June 10 at Ayr this year.** More information to come.

**Little Blue NRD Camp Scholarship** – The LBNRD will award several environmental and leadership youth camp scholarships to 4-H, FFA or other youth organizational members who reside within the District. The scholarship are intended to provide some financial assistance for youth to experience youth camps. Please contact the office to receive application. Applications are due May 15 to LBNRD. Contact the Extension office for an application.

## Ag Safety Day –

Tentatively: Thursday, May 28 8:30 – 1:30 Ag Hall at Fillmore County Fairgrounds Fee \$5.  
For more information or to register call 402-759-3712 or email [brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu](mailto:brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu).  
(The backup date is July 30)

Youth will participate in a variety of events designed to help them be aware of safety in potentially hazardous situation in and around agricultural settings.

## **HORTICULTURE**

**2020 Special Garden Project** - The Special Garden Project is a way to offer 4-H members the chance to grow unusual and fun projects in their gardens. This year the Special Garden Project is focused on growing Classic Magic Bachelor Button. Growing this plant will give you a chance to enter it at the County and State Fair! For more information on the project please contact the Extension Office. A limited supply of seeds have been ordered according to those that responded. I had requests from both Town & Country Lassies and Eastside Livestock. If those club members want to participate, please contact your club leader or the office and we can get a list of names and distribute through the mail perhaps.

**We are utilizing a separate Horticulture pre-entry sheet** again this year. This is brought up now so if you are planting soon it gives you a place to record your cultivar/variety plant name **at planting time** while you have the information from seed packs. This information is required on all horticulture plant exhibits (both flowers and vegetables) or the will be dropped a ribbon placing. This same sheet can be turned in by June 15 with your anticipated entries. You may plant more than actually comes to the fair so this sheet can be updated as time gets closer to entry day.

## **LIVESTOCK**

### **YQCA - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals**

is a national multi species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21. **This training is required for all food producing animal or livestock project members. Food producing and livestock projects include market beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry and rabbit.**

**\*\*\*Youth have the option of doing the online class or face-to-face class. This year the better choice may be to do the online option.**

**FACE-2-FACE CLASS** - cost \$3.00 and must register prior to attending:  
<https://yqca.learnrow.io/Account/Login>.

At this time Rachel has scheduled a training June 11 at the Geneva Library. Members have to sign up for the Face2Face training by logging into [yqca.learnrow.io](https://yqca.learnrow.io) and choose the Instructor-Led training.

We *intend* to have the Face2Face training but also know it may need to be cancelled so perhaps take advantage now to do the online and be prepared.

**ONLINE CLASS:** Members will go to <https://yqca.learnrow.io/Account/Login> and log in using their 4HOnline login. Members will first need to have an Active status with 4hOnline to be able to log in and complete the courses. (This was completed when you enrolled in 4-H online). Intermediate and seniors have the option of testing out for their age bracket utilizing the online site. Juniors must take the online or face-to-face class annually.

#### Age divisions:

\*Junior – 8 – 11

\*Intermediate 12-13-14

\*Senior 15 and over

Online registration and payment is necessary for taking any class. You will log in using your 4honline password.

The course will cost \$12... **But wait!!!** – order now and take part in a **FLASH SALE**. 25% off YQCA Web Based Class good only for the month of April. I coupon order form is included in this newsletter.

The only way to receive the discounted price is through a coupon. Another way that can be obtained is through an email [sales@yqca.org](mailto:sales@yqca.org). Coupons may take 3-5 days to obtain and need to be applied by April 30, 2020.

As always, call the Extension Office with any questions. 402-762-3644.

Animal Science 101: Rachel will continue to teach Animal Science 101 on Monday evenings through May 9. She is offering the class via zoom conferencing. Time will be 5:00 p.m. and use the zoom link <https://unl.zoom.us/j/165207039> to attend. All are welcomed and is a great class on learning more about livestock! For more information please reach out to Rachel at [rachel.adam@unl.edu](mailto:rachel.adam@unl.edu).

### \*\*\* ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION:

A sheet is included showing the requirements for properly Identifying your 4-H animals for county, state or AkSarBen showing.

State Fair - youth have until August 10<sup>th</sup> (State Fair pre-entry deadline) to select whether they are showing animals in 4-H or FFA. This means that if animals are properly identified, they could show in one organization at county level and one organization at State Fair or AkSarBen. They cannot switch organizations between State Fair and AkSarBen shows.

Exhibitors will be responsible for submitting their animal info into the AKSARBEN livestock database themselves for entries going to State Fair or AkSarBen. The site address is [www.showstockmgr.com](http://www.showstockmgr.com). DNA collection envelopes will still be sent in by the Extension office. Contact the office for details. Market Beef DNA envelopes have been collected.

Market Sheet, Meat Goats or Swine potential exhibitors at the State Fair will obtain envelopes from the Extension office and will collect their DNA hair samples, return to the office to get sent in. Members must return the DNA envelopes, enter their information in ShowStock and pay the \$7 fee. This needs completed by June 15.

**NOTE:** Animals showing at Clay County *only* will remain the same – each exhibitor will be required to complete an Animal ID paper form and will use ear tags as we have in the past.

Complete directions will be sent to those that this process will pertain to.

## HORSE

**Due to the COVID-19 situation and social distancing, there will be changes in 4-H horse Advancement Level Testing.** In order to abide by social distancing recommendations, skills and demonstration testing are on hold. It is hoped that by May/June, the skills can be offered again.

### **2020 Update: Please note all District House Shows have been cancelled.**

All youth will be allowed to enter the Fonner Park State 4-H Expo without qualifying. Entries to the State Expo are due June 12 and the deadline for passing the advancement levels will be extended to June 12 also. The Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show will take place on July 15-19, 2020

Youth are encouraged to complete the written test, which will be offered online, and the reports/feeds chart/healthcare charts utilizing online at home.

**Horse Exhibitor Levels:** to ensure the safety of all horse exhibitors exhibiting at the county fair, it is required for all youth to pass the beginning Level 1 Advancement Level skills and written test.

Resources are available to study at [animalscience.unl.edu](http://animalscience.unl.edu). The Levels testing needs completed by June 15. This can be worked on at any time during the year. Events at District and State require Levels 2 or 3 to be completed in order to compete.

Please contact the Extension office to obtain a link to the exam. These will be allowed to utilize the honor system and done at home. You need to pass with an 80% or will be asked to re-take a different version of the exam.

## **FAMILY TREE TREASURE HUNT**

**(have some family fun here)**

Heritage is the unique history of a family. A family heritage leads present day family members to be inspired by the past. All too often, a family's history is lost. The heritage of a family can be regained through research, interviews and record keeping. 4-H allows opportunity for youth to learn about family heritage through documenting family trees, keeping scrapbooks and exploring family traditions.

While seeking the treasure of a family heritage, 4-H youth will gain research skills, increase knowledge of personal identity, and improve family communication. The treasure hunt begins with you. Start making a map or pedigree chart working backward from one name to parents, grandparents, etc. Include full names, birthdate, death date, maiden names and siblings. A conversation with living relatives will lead to clues about your family treasure. Take notes of who was interviewed and the information given.

The clues from a family interview lead to new sources of information. Handle family documents such as birth and marriage certificates, old photographs, family Bibles or diaries with tender loving care. Photocopying helps to organize documents. Expensive certified copies are not needed. Documenting sources is an important part of researching family history. Do not skip this important step. Revisiting a source may be needed in the future.

Family recipes yield an uncommon bit of family history. Investigate the traditional foods and festivals of a culture. Preparing food or a celebration creates lasting connections with the past. One may decide to incorporate this gem of the past into current family celebrations.

If the treasure hunt leads to a dead end, do not give up. Dig deeper through a genealogy library or website. Several free genealogy websites exist such as American Memory Project, Family Search, Find-A-Grave, and Castle Garden. The growing amount of online information may lead to conflicting facts. Start with confirmed names and dates before opening an online search.

Families come in all shapes. A modern family may consist of adopted or biological children, single parents, step-parents or other alternative combination of members. Regardless of relationship, the modern family's history is a treasure. The treasure of family heritage grows with the addition of new members to the family.

Preserve the treasure you find. Designed for a variety of families, templates of family trees are at [familytreetemplates.net](http://familytreetemplates.net). A record of each family member or family group sheet summarizes a family unit. Organizing family history and sharing the treasure of heritage is priceless. 4-H youth routinely share family trees, family traditions, and scrapbooks. Preserving and learning the treasure of family heritage builds confident, creative, and community driven youth.

**\*\*PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST** – has been cancelled for April. We will keep you informed when able to re-schedule or decide to do a virtual contest. It would be very helpful to let the office know of your intent to participate. That way you can be sure to be notified when contest is re-scheduled.

Resource packets are available that gives guidance toward writing and presenting an original speech or PSA. You may enter a PSA in addition to your speech entry. This can be a good time to work on your speech or PSA and be ready when the time comes!!

Current classes and guidelines are based on 4-H age as of January 1

**Clover Kid** – under 2 min. in length. Does not need to be about 4-H. Can be speech, poem or story.

**Novice** - - *ages 10 and under* - having never competed in a speech contest before, can use a poem or story, under 3 minutes- the Novice division is COUNTY ONLY.

*\*\*Junior, Intermediate and Senior speeches must be an original speech relating to some aspect of 4-H*

**Junior** – 4-H age 8-10 (1 - 3 minutes)

**Intermediate** – 4-H age 11- 13 (3-5 minutes)

**Senior** – 4-H age 14-18 (5-8 minutes)

**Public Service Announcements (PSA) Contest Rules All Divisions:**

- All PSA's are 60 seconds in length.
- All PSA's will use the state theme as the basis for their PSA. The 2020 PSA theme **“Inspire Kids to Do”**
- 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](http://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 use.
- 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.
- Radio PSA's will be submitted electronically as a wav or mp3 format with 1 copy of the PSA test. (No CD's)



From your Clay County Extension Staff

Brandy VanDewalle, Youth Extension Educator

Michael Sindelar – Ag Extension Educator

Holli Alley, Extension Assistant

Deanna Peshek, Office Manager

Last thought –the final completion week for **Shooting Sports** was unfortunately cancelled due to directives from Nebraska 4-H cancelling all 4-H activities. 4-H Council had made a purchase of t-shirts for each participant and those were to be a surprise for the final night. Several shirts have been given out but several are still in the office. We will keep them until we see the “owners” or until safe to be out and about again. If in the area, contact the office and we can meet you at the back door to hand out. The majority of the shirts left are from the Sutton area so perhaps we can get them over there to dispense out. Hope you will enjoy wearing them !!!!

**Thank you 4-H Council !!!**