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CLAY COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER Newsletter – March 2020

4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENT DUE APRIL 1, 2020

Members: We are excited that you choose to be part of the Clay County 4-H Program. For returning 4-H'ers, please take time now to re-enroll if you have not already done so. The site is **ne.4honline.com**. Enrollment information has been in the past several newsletters or can be found on the website at clay.unl.edu. It would be to your advantage to keep track of your password as it will be used for future logins of re-enrollments, YQCA, and State Fair entry.

What projects should you take? Sometime selecting the right 4-H projects can be difficult. There are so many choices. A resource to help you with the decisions is the Pick your Project, available on the web at <http://4hcurriculum.unl.edu> this site will take you to a place that gives a description of the learning objectives of a project. Resources and manuals are available at the Extension Office. We try to keep an updated inventory and do recycle manuals that are no longer needed.

IMPORTANT: All leaders, volunteers – new or returning must enroll by utilizing the **ne.4honline.com** site. Once you are enrolled you will get accepted as a member. Please do this by April 1. If you have a family profile already in place, **DO NOT** create a new one. If you were in 4-H last year, you are in the system. There is a place to re-set your password if needed. Be sure you complete the form through the authorization signature portion, project updates, all the way to the end where you will finish by clicking the SUBMIT button. Anything less means you are not quite finished thus not enrolled.

Find us on **Facebook** and stay up to date on all the latest news and activities that go on with the Extension Office and the University of Nebraska. www.facebook.com/UNLClayCounty. Holli tries to keep up with links that will be helpful for you to check out. Something for everyone!

4-H VOLUNTEERS – appreciation meal and programming update – coming soon – Sunday – March 8 from 4-6 at Clay County Fairgrounds. All leaders, volunteers welcome!! Please contact the office by March 2 to RSVP.

SPECIAL THANKS to all that participated in the 4-H Livestock Auction at the 2019 fair. As was advertised, the 5% fee that traditionally is withheld for administrative purposes, this year was donated to flood relief efforts. The funds will be distributed to assist other 4-H'ers/families. The office received a thank you letter for the generous assistance. Clay County can feel very proud to have helped out.

2020 Clay County Fair Dates: Wednesday, July 8-Sat. July 11. Mark your calendars.

2020 Fair Theme..... “Boots, Buckles & Barrels of Fun”

Start thinking of fair exhibits and decorations to match this year's theme!

CLOVER KID CLUB - Why wait to join 4-H? Become a Clover Kid! *All 5-7 year-olds* (as of January 1, 2020) are invited to become Clover Kids. As a Clover Kid you may participate, non-competitively, in educational and recreational activities. You can even participate at the County Fair! Become a member of a club or an independent member. Simply complete the online enrollment form by **April 1st**. If you are interested in being part of the Clover Kid Club, Brandy VanDeWalle will be the leader for this club. **Again, you may join another club, this one or both.** Please contact the office so you can be put on a contact list for any further correspondence.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS:

Afterschool Workshop –

All workshops will be from 3:30 – 4:30 at each school. Pre-registration is highly encouraged to the Clay County Ext. office at 402-762-3644 or email holti.alley@unl.edu. There is no cost for the workshop and all youth in grades 3 – 6 are welcome!

*****March Afterschool workshop: Companion Animal Genetics**

March 16 – Sandy Creek

March 17 – Harvard

March 18 – Sutton

All times are 3:30-4:30

SHOOTING SPORTS season is in progress and narrowing down. The **Awards Program** will be **Sunday, March 22 in the Activities Building at the fairgrounds.** Awards are presented followed by a carry in supper for all to share. The starting time for award presentations will be 5:30 p.m. The supper will follow at approximately 6:15. Table service is provided. Families are asked to bring a main dish and either a salad or dessert to share. It has been a good season and this is a good way to end.

Shooting Sports members are also reminded they can sign up for additional 4-H projects. Go back into your profile and mark your selections. It would be a fun way to learn something new and perhaps have an entry for fair.

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 flowers. 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 so contact us if you want to participate. **Enroll in this projects f interested.**

March is Bake & Take month, a time when wheat organizations encourage others to bake a wheat food and share it with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and shut-ins. In honor of the month, the Nebraska Wheat Board (NWB) is again sponsoring recipe cards and stickers for any 4-H groups or other organizations that wish to participate. This year's recipes are Chocolate Chip Cookies or Fruit Bars. Those interested in participating or who have questions can contact the NWB office at (402) 471-2358 or wheat.board@nebraska.gov. Recipes also available at the Extension office.

Applications for the 2020 Governor's Ag Excellence Awards are due each month! - \$500 awards for clubs who have a project or event they would like to fund. They just need to fill out a short application with an explanation of their plans. All types of projects will be considered for an award, including agriculture, horticulture, community service, fairground improvements and many more! Learn more and apply at <http://ne4hfoundation.org/recognition/>. Questions? nebraska4h@gmail.com

9th 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 sixth 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 will be given to the first, second, and third place teams. First place will receive \$1,000, second place will receive \$500, and third place will receive \$250. Sustainability, crop scouting and "extra mile" awards will also be given, each worth \$200.

To participate in 2020, youth must complete and return an entry form by March 15th to the Fillmore County Extension Office in Geneva, NE. Forms can be downloaded at cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/activities. For more information, contact Brandy at brandy.vanderwalle@unl.edu.

NOTE: Join a Clay County Team - Michael has scheduled time that youth can come meet with him for some consulting for possible projects or teams. He will be available at your convenience, Wednesday – March 4 – from 4 – 7 p.m., in the meeting room at the fairgrounds.

YQCA - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 18 with a focus on three core pillars: food safety, animal wellbeing, and character development.

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.

ONLINE: 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. The course will cost \$12. Intermediate and Senior divisions have the option to "test out" online for their age bracket. Juniors must take the online or Face2Face class annually.

4-H Age divisions are: Juniors: 8-11 Intermediates: 12-13-14 Seniors: 15 and over

FACE 2 FACE CLASSES: cost \$3.00 and must register at yqca.learnrow.io prior to attending. Log in and choose the Instructor-Led Training. After the training the instructor will approve the member and the member will print off their certificate which will be submitted to the office.

March 29 in Geneva – 1:00 - 3:30 (Animal Science Day to follow)

April 13 in Clay Center – at the fairgrounds – 1:00

June 11 – last chance YQCA Geneva Public Library

Call the Extension Office with any questions. 402-762-3644.

Animal Science 101

Rachel Adam from Fillmore County will be hosting several Animal Science Workshops in both Clay and Fillmore Counties. All youth are welcome to attend. Times will be from 5-6:30pm. Please contact Rachel so she knows who to plan to attend. Rachel.adam@unl.edu or 402-759-3712. All ages of 4-H youth welcome.

March 2 - Fillmore County Fairgrounds
March 16 - Clay County Fairgrounds
March 30 - Fillmore County Extension Office
April 14 - Clay County
April 28 - Fillmore
May 12 - Clay Co
May 26 - Fillmore

CAMPS/SCHOLARSHIPS:

4-H Day Camp – Clay, Adams, and Webster counties are teaming up again to bring you another 4-H Day Camp. The Camp will be **June 10** at Crystal Lake at Ayr. This is open to all youth ages 8-12 years old. More information to come. Mark your Calendars!

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.

Big Red Camp – check out the possibilities of attending camp on UNL campus in Lincoln. This camp is June 7-12, 2020 for older youth looking for educational and career exploring. www.bigredcamps.unl.edu

NAYI - Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute– A five-day conference for high school juniors and seniors to learn about career opportunities within agriculture. Camp is Applications due April 15. Apply online at www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi Generous sponsors allow this event free of charge to qualifying students. Wonderful opportunity!!! Don't delay. Dates are July 6 – 10 2020.

CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS TRIP - Youth who are 15 to 18 years old in the years of 2022 & 2025 are invited and welcomed to sign up for a trip of a lifetime! Youth will experience the cities of Chicago, New York City, Washington D.C. and more. If you are interested in attending any future conferences, please contact NE Extension in Adams County at (402)461-7209. It is never too early to sign up. Fundraising is ongoing; Money earned at any fundraising activity will be applied to your 2022 or 2025 CWF trip fund. Please contact the Adams County Extension Office for further information.

Now is a good time to start 4-H Diamond Clover Program. The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover program consists of six levels in which 4-H'ers plan and report a broad range of age-appropriate accomplishments. Accomplishments can include (depending on age/level): • Attend at least 60% of club/ project meetings. • Complete at least one 4-H project. • Help with a club or community service-learning project. • Serve as a volunteer at a 4-H event. The program is designed to enable every 4-H member willing to exert the effort an opportunity to be recognized, regardless of how they are involved in 4-H. Now is a good time for 4-H'ers to plan their goals for next year! Complete information and forms are at <https://4h.unl.edu/diamond-clover>.

Tractor Safety Training Required by Law for Teen Farm/Ranch Workers

Federal law prohibits youth under 16 years of age from using specific equipment on a farm unless parents or legal guardians own the farm. However, certification received through the course grants an exemption to the law allowing 14 and 15 year olds to drive a tractor and do field work with certain mechanized equipment.

Teens 14 or 15 years of age who work on farms, or others interested in learning about safe farming practices, are encouraged to register for this class. Anyone under age 14 is not eligible to take the class.

All on-site classes begin at 8:00 A.M. and end times will vary, depending on the number of participants. Three training site locations in our area are as follows:

<u>Training Site Location</u>	<u>Site Coordinator</u>	<u>Dates of Training</u>
Fairgrounds, Geneva	(402) 759-3712	June 9 & 10
Fairgrounds, Kearney	(308) 385-5088	June 16 & 17
Fairgrounds, Hastings	(402) 461-7209	June 18 & 19

Cost of the course is \$60, which includes educational materials, instruction, supplies, and lunches.

Print and complete a registration found at kearney.unl.edu, and submit with payment to the appropriate Extension office location at least one week before the course

HORSE:

District & State Horse Show Entry Forms - all youth wanting to participate in District and State Horse must complete, pay and turn in entry forms by Friday, May 8, 2020 to Clay County Extension office. Horse Levels must be completed for events requiring them. Late forms cannot be accepted based on State 4-H Rules.

Horse Exhibitor Levels: to ensure the safety of all horse exhibitors exhibiting at the Clay 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. The Levels testing needs completed by June 15. This can be worked on at any time. The written tests are administered in the Extension Office. Events at District and State require Levels 2 or 3 to be completed in order to compete.

2020 4-H Horse STAMPEDE – March 28 at UNL Animal Science Building – Contests, Horse Bowl, Demonstrations. Complete info at 4h.unl.edu/horse/stampede. Registration due soon - Mar. 6

LIVESTOCK AND SMALL ANIMALS:

Thank you to the Sutton Vet Clinic for allowing us to use their facility and providing vaccinations for the market beef that were weighed in. Thank you also to Brett Nunnenkamp for ongoing beef superintendent duties!

Animal Science Day- Coming to Geneva on Sunday March 29 is a short animal science program (FREE) which will offer a livestock judging contest, a face2face YQCA (Youth Quality Care of Animals) program, tips for your livestock projects and other fun hands-on animal science activities.

This requires a lot of planning and assistance so if you are interested in participating, please sign up. There must be a minimum of 25 youth in order for this program to occur. RSVP to the Fillmore County Extension office at 402-759-3712 or by email Rachel at rachel.adam@unl.edu Remember to register online at YQCA.learnrow if staying for the YQCA class.

Other opportunities, contact for more info:

Rabbit Clinic – Free – Phelps County, Holdrege – Sat, March 14. Contact Lori.swanson@unl.edu

Horse Tack Swap – Mar. 8 10 – 4 Merrick County Fairgrounds

4-H Day at the Hastings Museum – Feb. 29, 10 am \$5/person. Shows, exhibits, virtual field trip

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST –will be **Monday April 20 beginning at 7:00 p.m.** at the Fairgrounds Activities Building. Now is a great time to begin working on a speech or PSA for this contest. Resource packets are available that gives guidance toward writing and presenting an original speech or PSA Pre-register for the county contest by April 15. You may enter a PSA in addition to your speech entry. All speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech. Complete rules can be found on the website at 4h.unl.edupublicspeakingcontest. The District contest for Intermediate and Senior divisions will be June 24, 2020 in Lincoln. This will be in conjunction with PASE and Life Challenge contests. Qualification at county is required.

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*". 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)

NOTE: This may be the last newsletter until after enrollment date so plan ahead to get enrolled and make your project selections. Remember - you select the PROJECT BY APRIL 1 then by June 15 you PRE-ENTER EXHIBITS coming to the fair as a result of your projects.

Have fun planning your 4-H year!!!
CLAY COUNTY STAFF:

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