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CLAY COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

WELCOME TO CLAY COUNTY 4-H. We are very excited to start a new 4-H year. Last year certainly presented challenges and while some of those continue, we hope we can build off that and work together to have a “new” beginning for 2021.

The 4-H motto “**To Make to Best Better**” is intended to inspire young people to continue to learn and grow, to make their best efforts better through participating in educational experiences. 2021 can be a year to live up to this motto.

ENROLLMENT is now open for MEMBERS and Volunteer Leaders –

Enroll or Re-enroll in 4-H anytime now: The address for enrollment or re-enrollment is **ne.4honline.com**.

Re-enroll: This will be very much like enrollment last year. After opening into the program select that you **have a profile - do not re-create a new one**. Once you are **logged in** you will be taken to the family page. To re-enroll, you will click on the **edit** button next to each youth. Work through and click on **Enroll for 2020-2021** button. At this point the program will take you to place to update youth personal information. Be sure to complete the page of authorizations. The Health Form remains optional. Update Club (if changes made) and Projects. The final step will be to click on ‘**Submit Enrollment**’ button. From this point it will show up at the office and after we ‘accept’ it, you should receive an email verifying so.

New to Enroll – begin with the website **ne.4honline.com** and create a family profile. Work thru following instructions.

The online site will remain open until June 15 so once enrolled, projects can be added or removed until that date. You will continue to have access to reviewing your projects. Clay County does not have enrollment fees. There will still be fees collected for Shooting Sports program and additional workshops. You are encouraged to enroll now so you can be better informed of events and opportunities.

Clover Kid project selection choices will automatically show what is available because of the member age. The projects available should all say Clover Kid in the title. (Livestock both large and small animals is titled Clover Kids)

ALL VOLUNTEER LEADERS: Volunteer Enrollment: ALL 4-H volunteers in any capacity, not just club leaders, need to complete or re-enroll a volunteer enrollment form each year. A 4-H volunteer is defined as anyone who works directly with 4-H youth at any capacity; this includes club leaders, project leaders, 4-H Council members, fairboard members, superintendents and workshop leaders. The online address to re-enroll is: **ne.4honline.com**. If you enrolled last year, **do not create a new profile**, utilize the portion that is to **re-enroll**. Make any updates, work through and complete it by hitting the **submit** button. If you don’t remember your password, there is an option for you to request a new one which will be sent to your email. That’s it. Pretty simple.

Every five years, leaders are requested to complete a Volunteer Screening Process. 2021 is the year Clay County is asked to **update all leaders**. You will be asked to complete the confidential screening. Volunteers are screened in order to ensure a safe, positive and nurturing environment for all youth involved with Nebraska 4-H programs as well as provide protection for the child, volunteer, educator, 4-H Council, Extension, Board, Fair Board and Nebraska Extension.

How to complete the Volunteer Screening: Begin by contacting the Extension office requesting the Link. The office will *email* you the letter with the LINK and directions how to complete. The link will take you to the Central Registry at Department of Health and Human Services. There will be a \$5 fee you are asked to pay at the time. Please try to do this in the near future so the process can be completed and you will be ready for the 4-H year.

4-H COUNCIL NOTES:

A very special thank you to Cindy Felber, Butch Hassler, and Amy Winter for a combined total of 58 years of dedicated service to Clay County 4-H Council. That is a lot of experience leaving and you will be missed!! **Thanks to each of you!!!** Newly elected to replace and serve will be Sarah Greer, Lynn Jasnoch, and Dana Griess. Welcome aboard!!

Council Members serving Clay County for 2021:

Cheryl Brockman	Michelle Batterman	Suzy Hassler	Bill Johnson	Rita Brhel
Ann Lindvall	Jason Majors	Angela Menke	Joe Parr	Chris Moore
Jody Novak	Sue Ochsner	Gary Rohrer	Jason Poppe	Kathy Sorensen
*Sarah Greer	*Lynn Jasnoch	*Dana Griess		

The re-organizational meeting for 4-H Council will be 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 11, 2021 at the fairgrounds. Council meetings are open to the public so you are invited to attend if you choose.

LEADERS if you have not already done so, please turn in the **Year End Financial Report**. They can be found on the website or I can re-send. (The form was sent to each club leader in Oct.)

2021 Fair Theme - voted on through Google Docs will be: **Home Grown Fun**

February is Nebraska 4-H Month! Make an impact by sharing your 4-H story. Promote 4-H in our community: tell your family, friends and neighbors about the great things 4-H has done for you! Celebrate and encourage others to join.

Leadership in Action – Become a Junior Leader --The Clay County Leadership in Action 4-H Club is dedicated to providing hands-on leadership training to all its members. The club focuses on bringing out the strengths of each member to help prepare them for future leadership roles. Any youth aged 12+ is welcome to join. You may become a member in this club or in addition to another organized club. Contact Leader Holli Alley if interested.

State 4-H Scholarships – 4-H members may also apply for one or more the statewide Nebraska 4-H Scholarships: criteria and application forms can be found at <http://ne4hfoundation.org> then click on the Recognition heading. Applications are due Jan. 15. Complete info can be found at this website.

Hastings Area of Commerce Scholarship is available to High School Seniors that plan to major in any Agricultural field. Applications due, March 12, 2021. To complete the Online application go to www.hastingschamber.com and look under the “about the chamber” tab.

LIVESTOCK INFO:

BEEF WEIGH-IN - EID TAGGING AND DNA COLLECTING for **Clay County** is Saturday, **Feb. 13, 2021 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** at Sutton Vet Clinic. All market steers and market heifers planning to be shown at county fair must attend an official weigh-in. If unable to attend this weigh-in date, animals can be weighed elsewhere but all weights must be *completed* within 2 weeks of the Clay County date. Bucket Calf 2 animals have the **option** to weigh in also, thus making them eligible for Rate-of-Gain contest at the county fair.

***** Contact the Clay County office by Feb. 8 to let us know you are planning to attend.** We would like your ID sheets to be completed and brought with you. Knowing who is coming also helps if we need further contact regarding notification if weather is an issue. ID Sheets are found <http://clay.unl.edu> under the 4H tab.

Alternative County weigh-in dates are: Fillmore County Jan 16 and Thayer/Nuckolls County Feb. 6. Please contact those county offices for times if you are planning to attend one of those. You may be asked to schedule a time slot for weighing in. At this time, and due to our numbers, we feel social distancing by families and wearing masks, can be managed without needing to designate times for the Clay County weigh-in.

All market beef planning to go to Nebraska State Fair or AkSarBen must be DNA tested at weigh-in and will need to have an EID tag also. It is suggested to list all family members on the DNA sampling envelope that potentially could show the animal thus providing some options later on.

YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA) Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete an annual quality assurance certification class. The YQCA course will be available online 24/7 making it very accessible for all to complete. First you will need to be enrolled in 4HOnline and have an active status (current year) in order to take the course. The website is <https://4h.unl.edu/yqca>. The online course is \$12 per individual. Certificates will still need to be printed and turned into the Extension office. There are options for older age divisions to test out. This information is also available on the website. YQCA is due June 15 however, winter months are a good time to work on this. At this time, face-to-face options have been postponed.

Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic Judging Contest – February 13, 2021, Buffalo County Fairgrounds, Kearney NE. This is a Beef only judging contest. For more information go to https://cattlemens.org/youth/judging_contest.html. Applications are due Feb. 5, 2021. Great opportunity to learn and practice showing and judging skills.

HORSE INFO:

4-H HORSE STAMPEDE- The 4-H Horse Stampede is held annually on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln East Campus. This year's 4-H Horse Stampede will be held Saturday, March 27, 2021. This event offers a variety of 4-H horse contests that don't require live horses, including public speaking, demonstration, quiz bowl, art, and photography contests. Youth have the opportunity to display their equine knowledge through these contests both as an individual and as part of a team. There is a \$10 entry fee per contestant. Information and registration forms are found at <https://4h.unl.edu/horse/stampede>. Entries are due March 5. Depending on current UNL Campus health restrictions and guidelines at the time, this event may be altered to virtual.

2021 District Horse Show – Mark your Calendars! Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show July 10-14, 2021. Entries for district/state are due to the county office by May 7, 2021. Entry forms will be updated online or available at the office at a later date. Webpage – <http://4h.unl.edu/state-horse-expo-district>

2021 District show dates are:

June 14 - Scottsbluff

June 16 - Columbus

June 18 - McCook

June 15 –Burwell

June 17 – Lincoln

NE 4-H Cat Class - Do you like cats? What about learning how to care for or show them? You now have access to lessons and activities that you can complete on your own time. Check out lessons about cat history and breeds here: <http://4h.unl.edu/companion-animal/cat-club>

You might consider adding the cat project to your list this year. Many of you have cats and it would be fun to get to exhibit them at the County Fair Cat Show. Perhaps this could be a club project to watch the videos and do worksheets together as a club. Cats need to be vaccinated and follow criteria to show at the fair.

PROJECTS:

Special Gardening Project – each year a Special Garden Project is available for all to participate in. Enroll in this project online as you are enrolling in your 4-H projects. The office will order some seed packets that you will need. This year the Special Gardening project is the **Hakurei Turnip**. This is not your grandmother's turnip. Hakurei is a white salad turnip that is smooth, round and at its best when harvested under 2". More information can be found at 4h.unl.edu/special-gardening-project. Entries can be made at both county and state fair.

New in 2021 – Special Agronomy Project – Nebraska Extension Special Agronomy Project gives 4-H'ers an opportunity to experience a crop that is grown, was grown, or has the potential to be grown in NE. Youth anticipate by receiving seed and resources to grow the crop, research traits and determine the viability of that crop in their location.

To kick-off the inaugural year of this special project, youth will explore teosinte. The plant looks and is very similar to corn, in fact it is believed to be the wild ancestor of today's corn! Teosinte produces stalks that produce several small ears with a cob and hard trapezoidal kernels. The care is very similar to corn so we will plant and fertilize like corn. Plant the seeds 1-2" deep, 8 to 12 "apart. Teosinte is a tropical grass, so wait until soils are warm before planting. For more info contact Brandy at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu or 402-759-3712. **Please contact the Extension office by Jan. 20 to order seed.** If not requested seeds will not be ordered or available.

Innovative Youth Corn Challenge - 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 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. To participate as a team in 2021, 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.

Project Focus: Featuring 3 projects that may be of interest to you and can be worked on now.

Healthy Lifestyles – 4-H Foods and Food Preservation Manuals -The foods and nutrition projects switched curriculums couple years ago. There are manuals for the Food Preservation project – Freezing, Drying, Boiling Water Canning and Pressure Canning. The manuals are very nice and offer a lot of learning opportunities in addition to just making a fair entry. The curriculum is designed to allow a 3 year progression to help you build skills before advancing on. A short description to help you select your project(s) is:

101 teaches food prep skills, beginning baking projects, measuring.

201 teaches food and kitchen safety, quick breads, creative mixes

301 teaches yeast breads, menu planning

401 focusses on technical tricks in food prep including herbs/spices, ethnic foods, cakes, pies.

Photography – new manuals were available last year. There are new opportunities for fair exhibits so this might be a nice time to be thinking ahead and practicing with photography skills

Financial Future – this project has beginner and advance levels. Learn differences about wants and need as well as goals, investments and credit scores. Good for anyone that wants to understand and be wise with money.



CLAY COUNTY SHOOTING SPORTS - Clay County is fortunate to have an outstanding 4-H Shooting Sports program for Archery, BB Gun and Air Rifle. If you are new or returning to the program, you may participate by following the guidelines. Equipment is furnished for all disciplines, however if you have your own *archery* equipment, you may use that. All youth ages 8 – 18 by Jan. 1 of current year are invited to participate. Air Rifle participants must have completed State of NE Hunter Safety Course.

It is fully intended to be able to offer the shooting sports program again this year. Although it may look somewhat different, we are looking at ways to make it happen. We will be following the current guidelines in place by NE 4-H.

Signup and scheduling may need to be handled differently as well as developing a plan for sanitation of equipment. We will keep you informed as decisions are made. It is anticipated letters will be sent directly to all that participated last year as well as to any new members we are aware of. Meanwhile, it would be helpful if you go ahead and enroll online.

The steps needed to be eligible to participate will be as follows. At this immediate time, you may complete step 1.

****1) Enroll online at ne.4honline.com**

**2) Complete the parent release form.

**3) Schedule a weekly practice time.

**4) Pay 4-H shooting sports fee - \$5 per discipline or \$15 per family.

Please watch for more information as we get further along with plans.

Happy New Year wishes from Clay County Extension Staff

Holli Alley

Deanna Peshek

Brandy VanDeWalle

Michael Sindelar

4-H Fact and Information Sheet

Important things to know about 4-H



4-H Pledge

I pledge My Head to Clearer thinking
My Heart to greater Loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living,
For my Club,
My Community,
My country,
And my world.

4-H Motto

“To Make the Best Better”

4-H Slogan

“Learn by Doing”

4-H Colors

Green and white are the 4-H colors. Green is nature’s most common color – it symbolizes spring, life and youth. White represents purity and high ideals.

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Difference between 4-H Projects and 4-H Exhibits – this questions comes up so will try to differentiate.

4-H Projects are learn–by-doing activities 4-H’ers select and participate in – either alone or as a group. Projects are based on seven curriculum areas. Support materials and manuals are available for most projects providing teaching materials and suggestions for exhibit items to make or display. There are over 120 projects are available to *select from as you do online enrollment*.

Curriculum areas used to help select projects are:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| *Citizenship and Civic Education | *Communication and Expressive Arts | *Consumer and Family Science |
| *Healthy Lifestyles | *Personal Development | *Plants and Animals |
| *Science and Technology | | |

Entries and Exhibits – are objects or displays a 4-H’er makes, raises or organizes as a result of the project you originally enrolled in. Exhibits vary from animals, posters, foods, photography...*Exhibits are prepared and brought to the county fair*. A 4-H premium book (referred to as the Fair Book) will assist you in selecting which classes you will be eligible to make as entries. There is a pre-entry sheet that needs completed prior to fair so entry cards can be generated to tag with your entry/exhibit.