



Nebraska Extension Clay County

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CLAY COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

March 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 starting now: The address for enrollment or re-enrollment is ne.4honline.com. Enclosed in this newsletter is a list of projects that you will find on the enrollment page. Perhaps you can challenge yourself to find some new interests in addition to your favorites.

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 some 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)

CLOVER KIDS SPRING WORKSHOPS - See enclosed flier information. These will be held at the Clay Co Fairgrounds and are open to all youth 5-7 years old. Contact the office to register so supplies can be prepared for you.

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 has *emailed* the letter with the LINK and directions to 4-H Council and Shooting Sports leaders. **Please request if needed or if need to be re-sent**. 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. **Let the office know when you get a response back from DHHS showing completed.**

4-H COUNCIL NOTES:

The next scheduled 4-H Council meeting is Monday March 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Council meetings are open to the public so you are invited to attend if you choose.

LEADERS - you are invited to (encouraged) to attend the Clay/Fillmore County Volunteer Update. This is open to leaders, parents, council members. The date is March 21 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Extension office in Geneva. Please RSVP by March 12 for meal count & planning. You will learn new resources for volunteers and be able to network with others. Fillmore phone number 402-759-3712.

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

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 13+ 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.

HORSE AND SMALL ANIMAL INFORMATION:

2021 District Horse Show –Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show July 10-14, 2021. Registration and completed Advancement Levels will be due in Clay County office May 7, 2021. Entry forms will be updated online or available at the office at a later date. <http://4h.unl.edu/state-horse-expo-district>

****To be eligible to compete the Clay County Fair, all horse participants must complete Horse Advancement Level 1. Depending upon entries for District/State, Levels 2, 3 or 4 are required for completion for those shows. You may start on this process anytime. There will be a written test as well as a skills test for each of these levels.

2021 District show dates are set

June 14 - Scottsbluff
June 15 –Burwell

June 16 - Columbus
June 17 – Lincoln

June 18 - McCook

Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference – Presents 2 day event at Central City. Presenting on Saturday April 24 is Serena Siebrandt. This day focus is on learning helpful tips and improve your skills for showmanship, horsemanship, Ranch Rail Pleasure and Ranch Riding. Presenting Sunday April 25 is Becca Fellman who will conduct a Barrel Racing & Pole Bending Clinic. Learn how to improve your horsemanship and apply to speed events, learn about horse management and care and helpful tips and techniques for quicker patterns. This is limited to 20 riders.

To get signed up, contact Kim Dugan at 308-750-3912. Fees are \$75 for one day or \$100 for both. Lunch included. Indoor Arena.

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 has ordered 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. Contact the office to reserve your seeds.

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. Contact the office if you want some seed.

LIVESTOCK NEWS

Join Rachel for ANIMAL SCIENCE 101 sessions. These classes will be March 18th and April 1 both from 5 – 6:30 at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Youth will learn about Sheep, Goats, Swine and Beef animals. You will talk about the basic and more advanced information in the livestock industry. There will also be opportunities to learn about Livestock Judging and Livestock Quiz Bowl. Please register with the office with your intent to attend.

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. We do have one in-person class that is scheduled for April 5 at 1:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Contact the office to let us know you are coming.

STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK OPPORTUNITIES

2021 brings a change for exhibiting livestock at the NE State Fair- this year 4-H and FFA will show on different weekends. **4-H will be the first weekend.** Because of the change, NE 4-H will be offering new livestock classes and divisions. Briefly here are the new changes offered:

4-H Beef: *Feeder calf show *Junior Breeding Heifer class added to all breeding classes *4-H members may show up to 5 beef animals – 2 markets, 3 breeding heifers, and 2 feeder calves as long as the total number does not exceed 5 beef animals.

4-H Swine: * Breeding gilt show with 9 purebred classes as well as crossbred classes *market with 9 purebred classes *a new Farrowed and Owned Breeding Market division *eligible to show up to 5 swine which could be 3 markets and 2 breeding

4-H Sheep * eligible to show up to a total of 5 if at least two are breeding ewes. No more than 3 market lambs.

4-H Goat * eligible to show up to a total of 5 if at least two are breeding does. No more than 3 market goats.

MISC. AREA

PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP – If you would like to learn more about PSA's or public speaking this workshop might be for you. It is Sunday, March 21 at 4:00 pm at Library in Deshler. You would have a chance to practice PSA recording techniques, body language basics, speech writing and other practical speaking tips. Contact the Thayer County Extension office to register. The date for the Clay County Speech Contest is May 4.

NEBRASKA 4-H CAMPS 2021 Schedule is online at <http://4h.unl.edu/camps-centers/summer-camp/schedule>. Check this out now for some great opportunities to explore some great overnight camping experiences at 4-H Camp in Halsey NE! ! There may be carpooling from Raising NE in Grand Island.

Looking for employment? There may be some opportunities hiring camp staff. Must be 19 or older or have college experience. Looking for general counselors, health aids, leadership staff, lifeguards, photographers. Check this out at same site.

Extension Staff:

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