



## Nebraska Extension in Colfax County

### 4-H Newsletter August 2023

#### Welcome TJ!

Travis (TJ) Prochaska is the new Water & Cropping Systems Extension Educator in Colfax, Cuming, and Stanton Counties. He grew up on a farm in central Seward County just outside of Seward. He obtained his bachelor's from Concordia University, Nebraska and his masters (2011) and doctorate (2015) from UNL Entomology. For the last 7 years, he served as the Crop Protection Specialist in Minot, ND for NDSU Extension. In that position, he got to help growers solve crop related issues involving insects and plant disease. He also participated in numerous 4-H related extension events connected to entomology. While in North Dakota, he expanded his crop reach to nearly 40 different crops. Some of the crops include canola, pea, lentil, sunflower, wheat, and barley. Additionally, he had to learn to brave the cold. The coldest wind chill he was lucky enough to experience was around -70°F. He served with the American Red Cross and the disaster action response team for many years. He is excited to join the incredible team at Nebraska Extension serving the Colfax-Cuming-Stanton County region. If you see him around, stop him and introduce yourself!

#### Extension Note

Thank you to everyone who helped at the 2023 Colfax County Fair! This year was a great success, and we cannot wait to see everyone again in 2024! If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let us know how we can make 2024 even better.

#### Save the Date! 2024 Colfax County Fair: July 18th-21st, 2024

#### Thank You's

It is never too late to say thank you. Have you turned in your trophy sponsor thank you to extension staff? Have you sent a thank you to your 4-H leader for helping you this year? Please take time to express your appreciation by sending a thank you note. Sending thank you notes to your trophy sponsors can play a key role in their sponsoring a trophy



next year. Thank you's MUST be turned into the extension office.

#### 4-H Robotics

Due to recent state-level competition changes that impact scheduling, we made the difficult decision to no longer sponsor the First Lego League Robotics program as Extension Staff.

This does not mean robotics has to end, if a parent volunteer is willing to step in and take over the training, we would be happy to help in this process. Robotics will also still be offered in the schools. Many students will have a chance to explore and interact with them during our programming.

This was a difficult decision, and we encourage you to reach out with any questions.

#### State Fair Exhibitors

A reminder to everyone whose exhibits were selected for state fair.

- Bring your exhibit to the Extension Office between August 7 and August 22.
- You have until 7 p.m. on August 22nd to bring your items to the Extension Office. The Extension Office is open until 7:00 p.m. on August 22nd. No entries will be accepted on Wednesday, August 23rd. Extension staff will take your exhibits to state fair and enter them.
- If your exhibit is large, you will have received a letter, and you will need to make your own arrangements to take it to the State Fair in Grand Island and also pick it up after the fair. If taking your own exhibit to Grand Island, stop by the Extension Office to pick up your entry tag.
- The Extension Office will complete the entry tags for State Fair Exhibits.
- Please take off all county awards and ribbons.
- Be sure to identify your exhibits (all pieces) with your name and county.
- Make sure all necessary information is included with your exhibit (i.e. clothing labels, recipes, information sheets, woodworking plans, etc.)

- Exhibits can be picked up at the Extension Office beginning on September 7th. Please be prompt in picking up your exhibits.
- Questions?? Contact the Extension Office.

### **State Fair Animal Exhibits & In-Person Events**

4-H members exhibiting any 4-H live animal exhibits or participating in any 4-H contest at the Nebraska State Fair must be entered in ShoWorks before 8:00 PM CST on August 10, 2023. These exhibits and contest participants must be entered by the 4-H member (or their family). Fees must be paid using a credit card. There are no other options for payment. Live animal exhibits and contest participants will not be entered by the county extension office. If you have questions please contact us. <https://www.statefair.org/competitions/4-h-ffa-exhibitors>

### **4-H DAY AT THE FAIR TICKETS**

The Nebraska State Fair is thrilled to host the 1st annual 4-H Day at the Nebraska State Fair. 4-H Day will be Sunday, August 27th. To celebrate our 4-H members statewide we are offering a discounted admission that day that is only for bonafide 4-H members.

**This is only intended for 4-H members, family members including parents will need to purchase regular admission tickets. This is not just for exhibitors, but for any 4-H member.**

The link is <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/7980811/4h-day-atnebraska-state-fair-good-on-aug-27-only-lincoln-nebraska-statefairlivestock>.

Those with static exhibit entries, please be sure to watch your email for more information on tickets for entry.

### **State Fair Premier Science Award**

The Premier 4-H Science Award encourages youth to identify science skills they have used in completing their 4-H projects. All static exhibits entered at the 2023 Nebraska State Fair are eligible. For example, maybe youth experimented with different fabric types for a clothing project, explored new ways of preserving fruit, tried a variety of paints to see what would work best for a lamp, or practiced using different photography techniques. All applicants will be recognized and will be eligible for cash awards. Applications are due **Monday, August 21 at noon.** Learn more and apply at [4h.unl.edu/state-fair-static-exhibitor](http://4h.unl.edu/state-fair-static-exhibitor)

### **State Fair Volunteer**

You can help us ensure young people have meaningful, positive, and memorable experience at

this year's Nebraska State Fair. Volunteer with Nebraska 4-H at [4h.unl.edu/state-fair-volunteer](http://4h.unl.edu/state-fair-volunteer)

### **Make it with Wool Competition**

Enter the Make It With Wool Contest! The object of the contest is to promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics and yarns; to encourage personal creations in sewing, knitting, crocheting, spinning, and weaving of wool fabrics and yarns; and to recognize creative skills.

The 2023 State Make It With Wool Contest will be November 18 at Adams County Extension Office in Hastings, NE beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to the public Fashion Show at 1:00 p.m.

The divisions determined by age as of January 1, 2023 (national rule), are as follows: Preteen – age 12 and under, Junior – age 13 to 16, Senior – age 17 to 24, Adult – age 25 and over, and Made For Others.

For more information, contact the Nebraska State Director: Andrea Nisley, P.O. Box 757, Lexington, NE 68850 (phone 308-324-5501) [anisley1@unl.edu](mailto:anisley1@unl.edu) or the District Directors. District Directors include District I – Doris Rush of Scottsbluff, 308-635-0156 and Rosalene Tollman of Marsland, 308-665-2415; District II – Crystal Fangmeier of Hebron, 402-768-4183; and District III – Beth Andrews of Hampton, 402-725-3302.

The entry form, state brochure and national wool contest guidelines are posted on Dawson County Extension's website: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dawson/>. Entry forms, fees, wool samples and wool testing fees are due October 15, 2023 to Andrea Nisley. The fabrics/yarns used for the wool contest must be 100% wool or wool blend (minimum 60% wool or specialty wool fiber) for each fashion fabric or yarn used. Specialty wool fibers include alpaca, angora, camel, cashmere, llama, mohair, and vicuna.

More information is available on the National Make It With Wool website: [www.makeitwithwool.com](http://www.makeitwithwool.com).

The National Make It With Wool Contest also has a Fashion/Apparel Design Competition for college students who are currently enrolled in a college-level fashion or apparel design program. Entry deadline is November 1st for the Fashion/Apparel Design Competition. Information, criteria, how to enter and deadline information is given on the National Make It With Wool website.

## State Crop Scouting Competition Results

CONGRATS to the Colfax County Youth Crop Scouting Teams as they placed 1st and 2nd at the state competition at ENREEC (Mead, NE) on August 2nd! The first place team included Daphne Jedlicka , Callen Jedlicka, Cody Jedlicka, and Justin Eisenmann. The second place team included Hayden Bailey, Rylan Nelson, and Josh Eisenmann. Both teams will represent Nebraska at the regional competition on September 18th! The team coaches are Steve Nelson, Justin Zoucha, and Korbin Kudera.



**Pictured from left to right:** coach Justin Zoucha, team members: Cody Jedlicka, Daphne Jedlicka, Joshua Eisenmann, Callen Jedlicka, Justin Eisenmann, coach Steve Nelson, and team members: Hayden Bailey, and Rylan Nelson. Not pictured is Coach Korbin Kudera.

## Premier Animal Science Events Competition Results

Colfax County had 5 participants compete in the Nebraska 4-H Premier Animal Science Event Livestock Judging contest at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Team members were: Bela Jedlicka, Daphne Jedlicka, Abigail Reyna, Addison Vavricek, and Allison Vavricek.

Results: Daphne Jedlicka: 8th overall individual in sheep and goats, Abigail Reyna: 8th overall individual in swine, Allison Vavricek: 4th overall individual in cattle, and 3rd overall individual in reasons.

The Colfax County Team received 3rd in swine, 3rd in cattle, 4th in reasons, and was the 4th overall team in the contest. Colfax County is so proud of all of you! Thank you so much to Mr. Harper, and Mr. Moomey for coaching, and chaperoning the team!



**Pictured from left to right in the back row:** Coaches Casey Harper, and Hal Moomey. **Pictured in the front row from left to right:** Addison Vavricek, Bela Jedlicka, Allison Vavricek, Abigail Reyna, and Daphne Jedlicka.

## **4-H Council Fundraisers**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Food Stand a success this year at the 2023 Colfax County Fair. Your hard work will help support the following programs and activities during the upcoming year:

***4-H leader materials***

***Year pins for 4-H members & leaders***

***4-H Diamond Clover pins***

***County 4-H award medals***

***4-H promotional items***

***4-H camp scholarships***

***Senior 4-H scholarships*** - \$250 per applicant

***Scholarships toward National &***

***Regional 4-H Contests***

***Scholarships toward National 4-H Congress***

***4-H T-shirts*** - free shirts to first year 4-H members and pay partial cost for other members

***4-H Speech Contest premiums and awards***

***Contest entry fees*** - registration fees for: PASE (State Livestock Judging Contest), District & State Speech/ PSA contest, State Fashion Revue contest, State Horticulture, Weed/Grass ID, Tree ID, & Insect ID contests, District & State Presentation contest

***Renovations to the food stand***

## **Calendar**

Aug 10: Animal State Fair Entries Due by 8:00 p.m.  
Aug 10: State Fair Contest Registration Deadline  
Aug 22: Office open late for State Fair Static Exhibits -7 p.m.  
Aug 23: Extension Office Closed for transporting projects to the Nebraska State Fair  
Aug 25 – Sep 4: Nebraska State Fair  
Sep 1: Norfolk Beef Expo Entries Due to Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce  
Sep 4: Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day  
Sep 5: Office Closed for State Fair Project Pick Up  
Sep 7: State Fair Exhibit Pick-up at Office  
Sep 10: Norfolk Beef Expo  
Sep 12: 4-H Council Meeting, Fairgrounds, Leigh -7:00 p.m.  
Sep 18: Regional Crop Scouting Competition  
Oct 9: Extension Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day

