**Holiday Hours**

The Extension Office will be closing for the holidays on December 24 at noon. We will be open on January 4 at 8:30 am. If you need to get in touch with us, give Aaron a call at 402-430-4806.

**Email News Letter**

We are looking to move toward being able to send Communication Via Email by starting with the newsletter. Please contact the Extension Office, 402-352-3821, and inform us if you would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, as well as other information; or if you would prefer it emailed to you current email.

**4-H Volunteer’s Banquet**

The 4-H Volunteer’s Banquet will be Sunday, January 24 at St. Benedict Center North of Schuyler at 6:00 pm. Letters will be mailed in late December.

**4-H Awards**

Enclosed with this newsletter is the nomination form for three awards:

- Friend of 4-H
- Outstanding 4-H Alumni
- Outstanding 4-H Member

Please consider submitting nominations. The forms are due January 4. Awards will be presented at the 4-H Volunteer’s Banquet on January 24. These awards are sponsored by the Nebraska 4-H Foundation and the Colfax County 4-H Council.

**Mailing Address**

When mailing anything to our office, please use P.O. Box 389 and NOT our physical address of 466 Road 10.

**Awards**

Congratulations to these award winners:

**Diamond Clover - Level 1 - Amethyst**
- Eliza Bailey
- Joshua Eisenmann
- Mic Sayers

**Diamond Clover - Level 2 - Aquamarine**
- Abigail Langdon
Diamond Clover - Level 4 - Sapphire
   Korbin Kudera
   Kara Kudera
Diamond Clover – Level 5 – Emerald
   Jenna Podany
   Jessilyn Sayers
   Alex Steffensmeier
   Katelyn Steffensmeier
   Jacob Vogel

Career Portfolio Awards

We would like to congratulate the following 4-H members on their Career Portfolio Achievements!

Animal Science
   Jessilyn Sayers

Communications and Expressive Arts
   Jessilyn Sayers

Leadership and Citizenship
   Kara Kudera

Science and Technology
   Korbin Kudera

County Fair Dates

The Colfax County Fair will be July 20 - 24, 2016. Please mark those dates on your calendar.

Beef Weigh Day

Beef Weigh Day has tentatively been set for February 7, 2016 from 1-3 pm at the Schuyler Vet Clinic. Please keep this in mind as you make your plans for market beef projects for next year.

Livestock Superintendents Meeting

The date for the Livestock Superintendent’s meeting is January 12, 2016, at 7:00 pm at the Extension Office in Schuyler. Please mark that date on your calendars so you can attend as there are many items that we can discuss relating to livestock exhibits at the Colfax County Fair. Please try to attend as it is helpful if everyone shows up to express their thoughts and opinions.

Livestock Insurance

Farm Bureau Financial Services has provided the extension office with applications and brochures, for those that may be interested in Animal Mortality insurance. Please stop by the office to pick up an application, or call 1-800-526-7270 for more information about the policy.

Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic

The Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic Judging Contest will be help February 20th 2016 at 7:00 am. The event will take
place at the Extension Building at the Buffalo Co. Fairgrounds in Kearney, NE. Entries must be mailed by February 5th, 2016. For more information please go to http://cattlemens.org/youth/judging_contest.html. This would be an opportunity for youth to get an experience in livestock judging.

**Gearing Up in 2016**

The new year will soon be here and that means it’s time to re-organize 4-H clubs. Please let us know if you need help getting started or re-organized in your clubs. Be sure to invite new members and families in your community to join your 4-H group.

Julie would like to attend your reorganization meetings this year to answer any questions and give program updates for the new year. Please let her know when your meetings will be so she can get them on her schedule.

**2016 Photography Themes**

*Unit II and Unit III will include this class - Nebraska Exhibit Print: Help us celebrate the national “4-H Grows Here” campaign. Capture photos of people and places that illustrate 4-H growing and thriving in Nebraska! Your photos should tell a story about how “4-H Grows Here” in your local community. Please print and include the 4-H Grows Here! logo in your photos. The logo can be accessed at https://unl.box.com/s/krptc9q2f2yxkxcpyc6q6flx6ni6z7mo*

**4-H Council Representatives**

A reminder to ALL 4-H clubs!! If you need to nominate new 4-H Council representatives, please nominate them before the January meeting. If a club doesn’t have 4-H Council representatives, it has no voice on how to allocate the resources of the 4-H Council to support your clubs success in Colfax County. Remember that all youth representatives have 1 year terms, and that adult representatives have 2 year terms, but both youth and adults can serve multiple terms. We have quite a few adult representatives whose terms are up, so be sure to have them in place by the January 4th 4-H Council meeting at 7:00 pm at the Colfax County Extension office.

Independent members can also be on the 4-H Council. If you are an independent member and either you &/or your parents are interested in being on the 4-H Council, please call the extension office.

**2016 PASE / Life challenge Advisory Board Application**

The Youth Advisory Board is an event board whose members are selected by the PASE/Life Challenge Event Coordinators. The board advises the coordinators on youth issues and serves as a means for youth involved in PASE and Life Challenge to become active members in the events and to have an official voice in shaping the experience. Each board member serves a one year term with the option to reapply each year.

Any current Nebraska 4-H youth who has attended PASE or Life Challenge within the previous two years.

There are currently 12 positions on the board. The coordinators and selection committee will review all applications and make their decisions based on the following criteria:

- Applicant must have been a participant in either PASE or Life Challenge within the past two years. (must be between 14 -19 years old)
- Applicant must be a current Nebraska 4-H member.
- Applicant should demonstrate a willingness to actively participate in planning or implementing activities at PASE/Life Challenge.
- Applicant should exhibit various leadership skills.
- Applicant should demonstrate willingness to communicate thoughts and opinions freely.
- Applicant must be able to participate in monthly meetings. (meetings held February –June)

NOTE – Meetings are held via Adobe Connect. To receive the connection, internet access and telephone line are
required.

If you have questions about the Youth Advisory Board or the application process, please contact Michelle Krehbiel at 402-472-9020 or Julie at the extension office 402-352-3821.

**Office Hours**

Just a reminder that our office hours are 8:30 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm.

**Facebook**

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook at Nebraska Extension in Colfax County! We update the page regularly with reminder of dates, events, and pictures. Search Nebraska Extension in Colfax County to like our page.

**Reminder**

Just a reminder that we are still accepting pop tabs at the Extension office for the Ronald McDonald House.

**First LEGO League Tournament**

Are you interested in robotics? Do you want to see how you can take your robotics experience to the next level? Come check out the Nebraska Extension First LEGO League (FLL) qualifying competition in Columbus!

On January 23rd at Shell Creek Elementary, 16786 280th Street in Columbus. Nebraska Extension in Platte County will be hosting an FLL qualifying tournament. You, your family, and all of your friends are invited to come see a robotics competition first hand. The day’s activities run from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm or later.

First LEGO League was created by the LEGO Corporation to help youth research real world engineering challenges and solutions. Youth ages 9-14 can compete on teams of 4-10 youth by completing the three part robotics challenge. Teams utilize the LEGO Mindstorms robotics kits and completing the FLL yearly challenge in the areas of Core Values, Robot Game and Project. For more information check out this year’s challenge at: [http://www.firstlegoleague.org/](http://www.firstlegoleague.org/)

**Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports**

A Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Certification Workshop is scheduled for February 13th and 14th in Lincoln at the Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Education Center. The deadline to register for the Lincoln session is February 2nd. Another training is scheduled for April 16th and 17th in Arlington NE (more details will follow).

Volunteers have the opportunity to become certified as an adult (21 years and older) or apprentice (14-20 years old) leader. Four project areas will be offered at the Lincoln workshop – rifle, pistol, muzzle loading, and archery. There is a minimum number of participants needed to offer these disciplines at the workshops. Workshop participants will learn under expert instruction from members of the Nebraska State 4-H Shooting sports training team.

The Registration fee is $100.00 per person for initial certification and $90.00 per person that are currently a certified instructor and are adding an additional discipline. This fee includes meals, supplies and program materials. Participants must make their own lodging arrangements. Registration on Saturday runs 8:00 am to 8:45 am.

For more workshop information and registration link, go to the 4-H Shooting sports web page at [http://4h.unl.edu/shootingsportseventcalendar](http://4h.unl.edu/shootingsportseventcalendar), contact your local Nebraska Extension Office or Steve Pritchard at (402)395-2158 or (308)536-2691.

**Fifth Annual Innovative Youth Corn Challenge**

Nebraska Extension and the Nebraska Corn Board are offering the fifth 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, 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 2016, 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 VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu, Aaron Nygren at anygren2@unl.edu or Amy Timmerman at atimmerman2@unl.edu.

Upcoming Events

January 4        4-H Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Colfax County Extension Office
January 6        Deadline for 4-H Volunteer’s Banquet Reservations
January 12       4-H Livestock Superintendent Meeting, 7:00 pm Extension Office
January 23       *First LEGO* League Tournament in Columbus from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
January 24       4-H Volunteer’s Banquet, St. Benedict Center, North of Schuyler

February 2       Deadline for Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Certification Workshop in Lincoln
February 7       Beef Weigh day from 1-3 pm at the Schuyler Vet Clinic
February 13/14   Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Certification Workshop in Lincoln
February 20th    Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic at Buffalo Co. Fairgrounds Kearney, NE at 7:00 am

Happy Holidays

Wishing you and your family a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and New Year from all of us at Nebraska Extension in Colfax County! Thank you for making 2015 a great year! We can wait to see what 2016 brings!

Aaron Nygren      Julie Kreikemeier
Brenda Dolezal    Scott Reiner
Julie Crandall