



# 4-H Newsletter

## 4-H Updates

### Office Closed

The Extension Office will be closed December 25 through January 1 for Holiday Break. We will re-open on January 2. Happy Holidays!



### Diamond Clover Award Winners 2024

Congratulations to our Diamond Clover award winner:

- Diamond Clover – Level 1 – Amethyst  
Bailey Prinz

### 4-H Award Nominations Needed

Attached at the end of the newsletter is the Awards Nomination form. The form gives you the opportunity to give special recognition to people or groups involved in 4-H. The form can be used to nominate three different categories (Friend of 4-H, Outstanding 4-H Member, and Outstanding 4-H Alumni). Please use a different form for each nomination. If you have any questions, please contact the office. Nominations are due by January 2, 2024.

### **Stephanie Bell**

4-H Extension Educator  
[Sbell8@unl.edu](mailto:Sbell8@unl.edu)

### **KateLynn Ness**

4-H Extension Assistant  
[Kness2@unl.edu](mailto:Kness2@unl.edu)

### **Brenda Dolezal**

Office Manager  
[bdolezal2@unl.edu](mailto:bdolezal2@unl.edu)

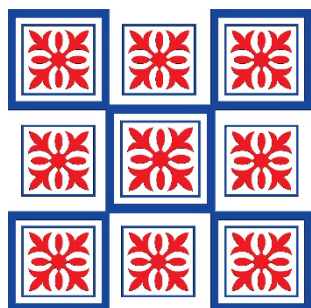
### **Colfax County Office**

(402) 352-3821

### **Upcoming Events**

December 13: Popcorn Pick Up Date. *(Please watch your emails for more information on times and locations)*

January 2: Quilt of Valor and Awards Nomination Forms due to the Extension Office



### **Quilt of Valor 2024 Award Nominations**

Colfax County 4-H members have created a Quilt of Valor throughout the year. A Quilt of Valor is a quilt made using patriotic material that is donated to a Veteran member of the Armed Forces after its completion. The Quilt and its recipient are also entered into the national Quilt of Valor Foundation database to keep track of the number of quilts that have been donated around the world. The Quilts of Valor Foundation is made of a volunteer group of quilters from across the United States, including Nebraska 4-H'ers. Quilts of Valor Foundation is a national organization founded in 2003 by "Blue Star" military mom Catherine Roberts while her son was stationed in Iraq and wanted him to have a comforting piece of home with him.

The Quilt created by Colfax County 4-H members will be presented to a deserving Veteran native to Colfax County.

Please use the attached nomination form to nominate a Veteran you know for this honor. If you have any questions, please call the office at: 402-352-3821 Nominations are due by January 2, 2024.

### **Nebraska 4-H Youth Leadership Experience Ambassadors**

We would love for you to apply to be a part of the Nebraska 4-H Youth Leadership Experience Ambassador Team. Youth who are a part of this group, get to be a voice on the youth perspective, develop & practice leadership skills that they can take back with them to their communities, and collaborate with Extension Staff and 4-Hers across the state to plan & implement 4-H Youth Leadership Experiences!



***The deadline for applications for the Ambassador team is Friday, January 5, 2024!***

If selected, the first meeting will be Sunday, February 4, 2024 from 4-6pm CT (via Zoom). From there we'll meet monthly to create an amazing experience for you and other high schoolers across the state!

The 4-H Youth Leadership Experiences will be a combination of working with state level 4-H events and contributing with your own leadership ideas across the state.

The application for Ambassadors can be found HERE!!

<https://go.unl.edu/2024yleamb>

If you have questions or would like to know more please contact Julie Schultz ([jschultz28@unl.edu](mailto:jschultz28@unl.edu)) or Stacey Keys ([stacey.keys@unl.edu](mailto:stacey.keys@unl.edu))!

### **Gearing up in 2024**

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.



### **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 March 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 club's 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 March 12th 4-H Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Clarkson Public Library.

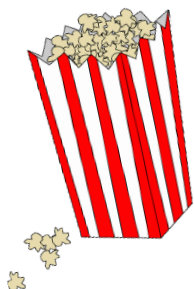
Independent members can also be on the 4-H Council. If you are an independent member and either you &/or your parents are interested in being on the 4-H Council, please call the extension office.

### **Popcorn and Coffee Fundraiser**

A big THANK YOU to everyone who bought and sold popcorn and coffee with the 4-H Council 2023 fundraiser! 444 popcorn and 237 coffee, hot chocolate, and cappuccino items were sold in 2023!

*Congratulations to the top 3 families that sold the most items.*

- Jackson Greene
- Josh, Justin, and Kara Eisenmann
- Karlee, Kazlee, Konner, and Kyller Bourek



Thank  
You

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January 8: 4-H Council Meeting; Howells Public Library at 7:00 p.m.

January 10: Livestock Superintendent Meeting; Fairgrounds at 7:00 p.m.

January 15: Extension Office Closed in observance of Martin Lutheran King Day.

January 28: 4-H Volunteer Banquet

## Nebraska State Fair Age Change

*As you know, in 2023, Nebraska 4-H lowered the age limit for participation in the Nebraska State Fair for all in-person events to nine years of age. That change increased our participation and provided more youth with the opportunity to have an engaging learning experience. We had many positive comments from legacy families as well as new.*

*This fall, we have had follow-up conversations with many of you as well as the show superintendents and various teams that run these events during State Fair and throughout the year. Based on that feedback and our goal of increasing access, the decision has been made to change **the age of eligibility in 2024 to be 8 years of age before January 1 (of the current year) for all in-person State Fair events (livestock, contests, fashion shows, contests) and other state competitions (Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Expo, PASE, communications contest).** Note: there will be some events that will maintain their ages due to specific program rules (shooting sports, FIRST LEGO League Challenge robotics). Please check information on each specific event as it becomes available. Please contact us if you have questions.*



**2023**

**AWARDS NOMINATION FORM**

(Plaques donated by Nebraska 4-H Foundation)

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

(Check One - One form per nomination)

- Friend of 4-H. An individual, group or business who has given outstanding service over the years to 4-H in Colfax County. Winners may receive only once.
  
- Outstanding 4-H Member. This is awarded to a current 4-H member enrolled in Colfax County. The recipient shall have demonstrated leadership and growth through the 4-H program, including projects and activities. Winner may receive only once.
  
- Outstanding 4-H Alumni. This is awarded to a former 4-H member who as an adult, has contributed to the 4-H program. Winner may receive only once.

EXPLANATION OF WHY NOMINEE SHOULD RECEIVE THIS AWARD:

Please return by January 2, 2024 to: Nebraska Extension - Colfax County  
PO Box 389  
Schuyler, NE 68661



## Quilt of Valor Recipient Nomination Form



The Quilts of Valor Foundation was started in 2003. Since then, Veterans and returning soldiers have been wrapped in Quilts of Valor as they return home or are honored on special occasions for their service.

Colfax County 4-H members have created a Quilt of Valor throughout the year. The quilt was exhibited at the Colfax County Fair and the Nebraska State Fair. At the request of the Colfax County 4-H Council, the Quilt of Valor has been brought back to Colfax County to be given to a local **Colfax County Veteran**.

Please fill out the following nomination form to nominate a Veteran, Serviceman, or Servicewoman you feel is deserving of this honor. Nomination forms are due: January 2, 2024.

Thank you!

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Name of Person Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the recipient ever received a Quilt of Valor?     Yes     No

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Place and Time of Deployment: \_\_\_\_\_

Please share why you feel your candidate should be selected:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form to: Nebraska Extension Colfax County  
P.O. Box 389  
Schuyler, NE 68661