Nebraska Extension in Colfax County 4-H Newsletter
February 2016

4-H Kick-Off

Come and Kick-Off our 4-H year on February 28, at Clarkson High School (Old Gym) from 2-5 p.m. We will have a variety of activities and project areas for families to check out. Two of our featured activities will be LEGO robotics and Blender Bikes! Come and pedal as fast as you can and make a delicious smoothie! It’s going to be a great afternoon for everyone to see and learn about 4-H!

4-H Enrollment Changes

All 4-H members must enroll on the 4-H Online system using Google Chrome. Instructions for enrolling will be given to your leaders, they can also be found on our website at http://colfax.unl.edu or you can call the Extension office for a hard copy to be mailed to you. These instructions will take you step by step through the process. Please contact the office if you have any problems or questions at 402-352-3821. You are welcome to stop in the office sometime and use one of our computers to enroll if you wish. Enrollment fee is $5 for both Clover Kids and traditional age 4-H members. This enrollment fee can be paid online with a credit/debit card or paid in the office with a check. Enrollment deadline is APRIL 15, 2016.

New Families

If you have new families in your 4-H club, please submit their name and mailing address to the Extension Office so that we can add their name to our mailing lists and help them with the enrollment process.

4-H Council Award Winners

Congratulations to the following 4-H Award Winners:
Friend of 4-H - Sandra Blaha
Outstanding 4-H Alumni - Theresa Shonka
Outstanding 4-H Member - Jessilyn Sayers
The awards are sponsored by the Colfax County 4-H Council and the Nebraska 4-H Foundation.

4-H Speech & Presentation Contests

Colfax County 4-H’ers are invited to participate in the 4-H Speech /PSA & 4-H Presentation Contest on April 28th in Columbus. The contests will begin at 6:30 p.m. We will be joining Platte County 4-H’ers in these contests but
Colfax County will have their own contest awards. Please pre-register by April 18th by calling the Extension Office. More information to follow.

**Regional Interview Contest**

Due to the low numbers of state interview contest participation at the state fair, Nebraska Extension has decided to discontinue the State Interview Contest. As an alternative, Nebraska Extension’s Eastern Nebraska District would like to invite you to participate in a special area Interview Contest competition. All the same rules and requirements will remain in place. The Interview Contest will take place at the Norfolk Lifelong Learning Center.

- Reserve the Date: May 26th
- Interview Contest resumes and Cover letters will be due: May 1 to the Extension office.
- Ribbons and Trophies will be awarded.
- Intermediate and Sr. Division eligible.

**Camp Scholarships**

4-H Youth are encouraged to apply for a camp scholarship sponsored by the 4-H Council. The 4-H Council would like for you to complete the Application for 4-H Camp Scholarship that is included in this newsletter and return to the Extension office. The 4-H Council will provide 2/3 of the camp cost. Some options are:

- Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center, Gretna
- Natural Resources & Leadership Camp, Halsey
- Livestock Judging Conference, Lincoln
- Unicameral Youth Conference, Lincoln
- Big Red Summer Academic Camps

4-H’ers who did not receive a camp scholarship in 2015 will have first priority, but all 4-H’ers are encouraged to apply. Your 4-H leader has a supply of camp brochures or you can pick one up at the Extension Office.

**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/krptc9q2lf2yxkxcpyc6q6flx6ni6z7mo](https://unl.box.com/s/krptc9q2lf2yxkxcpyc6q6flx6ni6z7mo)

**4-H Diamond Clover Recognition**

Colfax County will recognize 4-H’ers through the Diamond Clover program. 4-H’ers will be recognized for their accomplishments and life skill development. This is a non-competitive program and is available to all 4-H’ers, regardless of age. There are six levels of recognition. A short form needs to be completed when you sign up for 4-H this year and the rest of the form will be completed in September. For more information, contact the Extension Office. Club leaders have also received information on the 4-H Diamond Clover Recognition Program.
Quality Assurance Training is Required

State 4-H rules require that all 4-H members who show beef, sheep, dairy, swine, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry and rabbits be certified in Quality Assurance. You will **NOT** be able to show at County Fair, State Fair, or AK-SAR-BEN unless certified.

4-H Members age 8-11 are required to complete annual training. Members age 12 to 14 may complete training or take the intermediate test and be certified until age 15. Members 15 and older may complete training or take the senior test and be certified for the rest of their 4-H career.

As with last year, Quality Assurance training will be conducted online. The online training is structured for the 3 age groups, with different modules on quality assurance tailored to each of the age groups and to different livestock species. Utilizing the online training will allow members to learn more about quality assurance for their specific species than is possible at trainings. We will be mailing out instructions on how to take the online trainings to all livestock members once you enroll. For more information on taking the online training or if you would like to get an early start, please contact the Extension office.

Members may test out if they choose to. Practice tests are available on the web at http://assuringquality.unl.edu/. You may also contact the Extension office to arrange testing.

**ALL TRAINING AND TESTING MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 1st!**

There will still be a $5.00 fee for taking the training. The fee was implemented to support the ongoing development of Quality Assurance modules and staffing at the state level.

This fee will have to be paid online before you can enter the training. However, the Colfax County 4-H Council has voted to reimburse the $5.00 cost to all members who take the online training. Participants will be required to pay online themselves, and will then be reimbursed by the 4-H Council once we have a report stating that the member has completed the training. With over 90 youth completing quality assurance training last year, this a large commitment of funds from the 4-H Council to support 4-H youth and families.

Show Animal Workshops at QC Supply

Get selection and nutrition information at QC Supply (Schuyler location) for Cattle and Swine on Thursday, February 25 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm and for sheep and goats on Thursday, March 10 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. Pizza will be provided. Pre-registration is preferred, but not necessary. Please call 402-352-3707 or email kbrichacek@qcsupply.com if you have any questions.

Free Chicks!

Tom Messing will once again offer free chicks to 4-H’ers interested in showing them at the Colfax County Fair. Each 4-H’er that signs up will receive 10 broiler chicks, with the expectation that they show them at fair. Look for upcoming information on signing up and picking up the chicks, but for now sign up for the poultry project when you enroll.

Rabbit Show!

The Lancaster County Rabbit VIPS Committee will again be hosting a Spring 4-H Rabbit Show.

- Saturday, March 19
- Registration 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
- Show starts at 9 a.m.
- Lancaster Event Center - Exhibit Hall

This is a great show for youth new to showing rabbits! A very knowledgeable VIPS committee will be present, and more than happy to help answer any questions 4-Hers and their families might have. Also, a few good 4-H rabbits for sale at this show. To check out the flyer go to [http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/documents/RabbitShowSpring16.pdf](http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/documents/RabbitShowSpring16.pdf)

**Burt County Beef Preview**
The 15th Annual Burt County Beef Preview will be held in Oakland, Nebraska, on Saturday, April 2. This is a JNC sanctioned show. Below are links to a flyer with more information and to the entry form for this show.

Flyer: [http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/burt/beefpreview.pdf](http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/burt/beefpreview.pdf)
Registration Form: [http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/burt/beefpform.pdf](http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/burt/beefpform.pdf)

**Youth Crop Scouting Competition**
Youth interested in learning more about scouting crops should contact the extension office to learn more about the Youth Crop Scouting Competition. Last year a team of 4 youth from Colfax County competed at the 2nd annual Youth Crop Scouting Competition and placed 1st overall for the 2nd year in a row. The 2016 Youth Crop Scouting Competition will be held on August 2nd at the ARDC near Mead. The Competition consists of both a written test and hands on questions about corn, soybean, or alfalfa plots.

Teams consist of 3 or 4 youth members, so once I know who is interested we will have to see how many teams we can put together. I will work with interested youth before the contest to help them learn more about agronomy and crops and prepare them for the competition.

**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](http://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.

**State Fair Beef Show Now Blow and Show**
The 2016 Nebraska State Fair beef show will be blow and show with no fitting allowed.
Market Lamb Tagging

In a change from last year, market lamb for County Fair, State Fair, or AK-SAR-BEN do not have to be tagged in front of extension personnel. However, if you are interested we would be more than willing to come out to assist with tagging if needed.

County only market sheep and goats will need a 4-H tag to be eligible to show at the Colfax County Fair. If you are desiring to show at State Fair or Aksarben, market lambs and goats will need to have an EID tag installed as well as hair pulled for DNA. Tagging must be done by June 1st.

EID Tags and DNA Testing for State Fair & AK-SAR-BEN

Any market animal to be shown at the Nebraska State Fair or AK-SAR-BEN must have an EID tag installed and hair pulled for DNA samples. This includes market beef, swine, market sheep, and meat goats. Also, feeder calves need an EID tag and DNA sample to show at AK-SAR-BEN. DNA samples for market beef were pulled at weigh day along with EID tags. 4-H’ers with swine, sheep, or goats will need to work with the office to get animals tagged with EID tags and the hair samples pulled. EID tags will cost $1.25 for beef and $1.00 for swine, sheep and goats. DNA testing costs $6.00 per animal. The Colfax County Livestock Support Fund will again support 4-H’ers by paying for the first 3 DNA samples per species for exhibitors. So if you have any ideas of showing at the Nebraska State Fair or at AK-SAR-BEN, be sure to get EID tags and samples pulled. Call the Extension office for more information.

Breed Nomination Cards for State Fair and Aksarben

Any breeding animals that families show at State Fair or Aksarben will need to be identified on a breed nomination card that will be available from the Extension Office for $2.00. Breeding beef will continue to use a tattoo in the ear for identification as well as breed papers. Breeding sheep or goats will use the scrapie tag identification number for ID.

County only breeding beef can use a tattoo or a 4-H tag. County only breeding sheep or goats can use a 4-H tag for id.

Livestock Progress Shows Mailing List

All livestock exhibitors are encouraged to attend a Progress Show prior to the County Fair. This serves as good practice for both the exhibitor and their animals.

Contact the Extension office if you want to be on the mailing list for 4-H Livestock Progress Shows. The information about progress shows will be sent only to those notifying us that they want the information. We do not carry names over from last year’s list. So, if you want to receive progress show information, give us a call.

Omaha Fashion Week!

Congratulations Hailey Coufal!! Hailey has been selected as 1 of 12 Nebraska 4-H members to model in Omaha Fashion Week’s Student Night special 4-H Section. In order to be considered for this show, garments had to be exhibited at the Nebraska State Fair.

The show is Tuesday, March 15th at the Omaha Design Center. Tickets can be purchased for $10 dollars at www.omahafashionweek.com/tickets.

Congratulations Hailey!
**Upcoming Events**

February 16 - 4-H Leader Training, Schuyler Extension Office, 7:00 p.m.

February 25 - Animal Show Selection and Nutrition at QC Supply (Cattle and Swine) at 6:00pm - 8:00pm

February 28 - 4-H Kick-Off party at Clarkson High School from 2:00pm - 5:00pm

March 7 - 4-H Council meeting, Fairgrounds, Leigh, 7:00 p.m.

March 10 - Animal Show Selection and Nutrition at QC Supply (Sheep and Goats) at 6:00pm - 8:00pm

March 15 - Omaha Fashion Week

March 15 - Innovative Corn Challenge entry form due to the Extension office

March 19 - Rabbit Show at Lancaster Event Center 7:30 - 8:30

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Admissions Requirements**

*What type of student are you?*

Go to: [http://go.unl.edu/g9mo](http://go.unl.edu/g9mo)

and click on the category that best describes you.

We want to be sure that you have taken the classes needed in high school so you are ready for higher education.
APPLICATION
FOR
4-H CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Name _____________________________________________________________ Age _______________

Address ________________________________________________________ Years in 4-H ___________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________

4-H Club Name ______________________________________________________________________

Have you attended 4-H camp before? ____________ If so, how many times? ____________

What 4-H camp are you planning to attend this year? _________________________________

Where? ___________________________________________ What is the length of the camp? ___________

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING:

1. Why do you want to attend this camp?

2. What do you hope to learn or experience at camp?

3. How do you plan to share your camp experiences with others?