



Nebraska Extension in Colfax County

4-H Newsletter March 2023

Announcements:

New Families

If you have new families in your 4-H club, please submit their name, email 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.

Upcoming Fair Changes for 2023

This year the release time for livestock and static exhibits will be 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 23rd. No static or livestock exhibits will be allowed to be removed until 6:00 p.m. Cleaning out livestock stalls prior to the release time is **NOT** allowed.

Any static or livestock exhibits that are removed prior to the release time without written consent from a Colfax County Agricultural Society Board member will forfeit ribbons, trophies/banners, premium money, and recognition.

Email Notice

Please remember the email address your family uses to create your 4HOnline account is the email address where all of your 4-H, newsletter, county fair, and state fair information is sent. **PLEASE** make sure you are using an email address your family regularly checks.

4-H Enrollment Information for 2023

Youth and volunteers can now enroll in 4-H for the new 4-H year. The website to enroll is <https://v2.4honline.com/>. Only parents/guardians may enroll 4-H members.

Cost is \$5.00 per 4-H'er. There is no cost for leaders to enroll.

Any questions please contact Brenda at the Extension Office at 402-352-3821 or send an email to bdolezal2@unl.edu.

Gearing up in 2023!

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.

Sewing Saturdays

Sewing Saturdays have been scheduled for Saturday April 1st and April 22nd from 9 to noon. 4-H members who participate cut, piece, and sew a quilt top for a Quilt of Valor that is given to a local veteran at the 4-H Volunteer Banquet in January. If you would like to learn more or sign up, please call the Extension Office at: 402-352-3821.

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:



- Adventure Together 4-H Camp Series Camps
- Livestock Judging Camp, Lincoln
- Youth Leadership Conference
- Big Red Summer Academic Camps

4-H'ers who did not receive a camp scholarship in 2022 will have first priority, but all 4-H'ers are encouraged to apply.

Livestock Awards

Based upon survey responses received from 4-H youth in 2022, the 4-H Council has voted and worked to offer banners instead of trophies for awards in the livestock area at the 2023 Colfax County Fair.

Ag Society Holding a Decorated Spool Contest

The Ag Society will be hosting a spool decorating contest for 4-H clubs, and independent members in Colfax County!

The rules for this contest are:

- The entire top of the spool must be covered with a design, and the hole must be filled in.
- The top of the spool must be either sealed or sanded to prevent anyone from getting splinters
- There can be no structural alterations made to the spool
- There cannot be any wheels or benches
- Colfax County must be written on the spool somewhere so it is labeled
- Your club name and/or personal names may be written on the spool
- Be creative!

If your club, or you as an independent member are interested in participating, please contact Clint Jedlicka by **March 20th** so the Ag Society has an accurate count for the number of spools needed. His number is: 402-615-1744. The pickup date for the spools is Sunday, March 26th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Please contact Clint if this date/time does not work to make other arrangements. The spools must be delivered back to the fairgrounds by the Monday of fair cleanup, July 17th.

The spools will be judged at the fair! The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on Sunday, July 23rd.

The prizes are \$100 for 1st place, \$75 for 2nd place, \$50 for 3rd place, and \$25 for 4th place. We are so excited to see what everyone comes up with!

4-H Updates:

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 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 will also receive information on the 4-H Diamond Clover Recognition Program.

Volunteer Recognition Awards

Nebraska 4-H is now accepting nominations for state-level volunteer recognition awards. These awards honor adult and youth volunteers who have provided meaningful contributions to the 4-H programs. Categories include Emerging Adult Volunteer (3 or fewer years of service), Outstanding Adult Volunteer (4 more years of service), Outstanding Youth Volunteer (ages 14-18), and Multi-Generation Family of Volunteers. Learn more and nominate your favorite 4-H volunteers at 4h.unl.edu/volunteer-recognition. Nominations are due by March 15th.

State Fair Age Eligibility

With each new State Fair season, brings new possibilities and opportunities for 4-H families in Nebraska. The opportunity for 4-H to continue having its own weekend allows more flexibility for new events, entry limits, schedules, and space. We want to continue to take advantage of that!

As part of that process, we continue to explore age eligibility requirements for State Fair participation. After gathering user input, researching data from other events/shows/states, and looking at the overall impact on youth development, the decision has been made to change **the age of eligibility in 2023 to be 9 years of age before January 1 (of the current year) for all in-person events (livestock, contests, fashion shows).**

Adventure Together 2023 Camp Series

An informational camp flyer is included at the end of the newsletter regarding 2023 4-H camp offerings. go to: 4h.unl.edu/camp or email Amber Stephens at: astephens15@unl.edu to learn about these exciting opportunities.

Livestock:

State Fair DNA Updates

All 4-H/FFA **Breeding Livestock**, Market Livestock, and **Feeder Calves** will now be required to submit a DNA sample/envelope to be eligible to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair. DNA nominations are \$7.00 per animal. Call the Extension Office for more information.

Youth of the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Training

State 4-H rules require that all 4-H members ages 8-18, who are enrolled in the following livestock projects (beef, sheep, dairy, swine, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry and rabbits) be certified in Youth for Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). Each youth wanting to show livestock at county or state fair needs to complete 3 modules. The link for this is: www.yqcaprogram.org. There is a \$12 dollar fee that you must pay. Deadline to complete this training is June 1, 2023.

Test-out options are only available to youth in the first year of Intermediate (age 12) and Senior (age 15) age levels. There is no test-out option for Juniors. If passed, youth will not be required to complete the annual training requirements for the remainder of their current age level (Intermediates: 12-14; Seniors: 15-18). Each test consists of 50 randomly selected questions and has a pass rate of 80% or better for certification.

Participants will have only one chance to take the test-out option. If youth fail, they will not be provided another opportunity to test out of that age level. Participants who do not pass will be prompted to take the web-based training annually.

If the youth passes, payment for the completed test-out course will be required after the completion of the test. No payment is required to attempt the test. Test-out costs are:

Intermediate: \$36 (\$12 x 3 years of certification)

Senior: \$48 (\$12 x 4 years of certification).

Contests and Learning Opportunities:

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 March 26th in Columbus. The contests will begin at 4:00 p.m. at the West Education Center at Central Community College. Theme for PSA's this year is "Discover Your Spark in Nebraska 4-H!". We will be joining Platte and Butler County 4-H'ers in these contests but Colfax County will have their own contest awards. Registration will be done by you, the family, through your 4HOnline account. Please contact the Extension Office if interested in these contests.

UNL Livestock Judging Camp

The UNL Livestock Judging Camp will be held June 7-9, 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska. For more information please go to: <https://animalscience.unl.edu/winners-unlimited-judging-camp>

NAYI

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is currently accepting applications for its biggest youth outreach event - the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI). NAYI brings together hundreds of high school juniors and seniors for one week every year to learn more about Nebraska agriculture, network with ag leaders and discover the many careers available in agriculture.

NAYI will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus July 10-14, 2023. Applications for NAYI are available at www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi and must be submitted online. Students selected to attend NAYI do so free of charge due to generous donations from numerous agricultural businesses, commodity groups and industry organizations. Current high school juniors and seniors interested in attending have until April 15, 2023, to apply. This year's theme is "For the Future."

4-H Horse Stampede

The Nebraska 4-H Horse Stampede will be held Saturday, March 25, in Lincoln. This event features a variety of horse contests that do not require live animals, including public speaking, demonstration, quiz bowl, art, and photography. Registration is due by Monday, March 6. Learn more at 4h.unl.edu/horse-stampede.

4-H Spring Rabbit Show

There is a spring rabbit show that will be held on Saturday, March 18 at the Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds in Lincoln, NE. For more information, contact Kate at 402-441-7180 or kpulec3@unl.edu. You can also go to the following link to learn more: <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/rabbit/Rabbit-Show-Spring-23.pdf>





Upcoming Events

- March 6: Horse Stampede Registration Due
- March 13: 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office @ 7 p.m.
- March 18: Spring Rabbit Show at the Lancaster Events Center
- March 20: Deadline to contact Clint Jedlicka if interested in spool decorating contest
- March 26: 4-H Speech & Presentation Contests
- April 1: Sewing Saturday, Extension Office, 9 to noon
- April 15: NAYI Applications Due
- April 22: Sewing Saturday, Extension Office, 9 to noon
- April 28: Office Closed for Arbor Day
- May 2: 4-H Council Meeting, Howells Library @ 7 p.m.
- May 25: Livestock Judging Contest @ Fairgrounds
- May 29: Office Closed for Memorial Day
- June 1: Camp Scholarship Deadline
- June 1: Livestock ID Deadline



I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking
My HEART to greater loyalty,
My HANDS to larger service, and
My HEALTH to better living,
for my club, my community, my country and my world.

Nebraska Extension In Colfax County Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30a.m. - 12:00 and 1:00p.m. - 4:30p.m.

Find us Online!
Web: Colfax.unl.edu

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Adventure Together 2023

ADVENTURE TOGETHER ACROSS NEBRASKA WITH 4-H CAMP



Chadron

June 5-9

Experience Nebraska via horseback, hiking, and with a trip down the Super Slide! Then see the prehistoric Agate Fossil Beds for a week of exploring Nebraska's wilderness; both past and present.



Cozad

June 16-20

Challenge yourself with high ropes, zipline, and a rock wall! Work together with your new friends for a canoeing adventure, and round out your day with gaga and 9 square in the air!



Ashland

June 26-29

Have an "in-tents" outdoor adventure at Mahoney State Park. Cook by the campfire, explore the tree canopy on the ropes course, and make a splash going down the slide at the pool!



Burwell

July 16-20

Explore the flora and fauna with a week on the river front! Explore the North Loup River, go geocaching, tracking, and don't forget about playing an epic game of capture the flag!



Louisville

July 27-30

Close out the summer with an "in-tents" experience at Platte River State Park. Practice your aim at the archery range, investigate the aquatic life at Crawdad Creek, and enjoy s'mores and songs with your new friends!



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4h.unl.edu/camp

