

4-H Newsletter

4-H Updates

Stephanie Bell

4-H Extension Educator
Sbell8@unl.edu

Katelynn Ness

4-H Extension Assistant
Kness2@unl.edu

Brenda Dolezal

Office Manager
bdolezal2@unl.edu

Colfax County Office

(402) 352-3821

Upcoming Events

March 20: Online registration due for the Communication Event on 4HOnline

March 21: "Threading Thursday" beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Extension Office

April 1: Free chick orders due to the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m.

Office Closed

The Extension Office will be closed Friday, April 26 in observance of Arbor Day, and Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

Gearing up in 2024!

The new year is here, which means it is time to reorganize 4-H Clubs. Please let us know if you need help with getting started or reorganizing your 4-H Clubs. Be sure to invite new members and families in your community to join your 4-H group.

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 navigate the enrollment process.

4HOnline Emails

FYI, emails sent from our office through 4HOnline are coming from RegMax. Please do not delete and be sure to read these emails as they contain important updates.



Free Chicks!

The Messing family 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 5 broiler chicks, with the expectation that they show them at the Colfax County Fair. Please call the Colfax County Extension Office at 402-352-3821 to reserve your free chicks by **April 1st**. *Please note, youth must be enrolled in 4-H prior to the April 1st deadline in order to receive the free chicks.*

Chicks will be available for pick up in early June at the Messing house.

Sewing Saturdays

The final Sewing Saturday will be a "Threading Thursday," and is going to be held on Thursday, March 21st beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Colfax County Extension Office. 4-H members who participate will cut, piece, and sew a quilt top for a Quilt of Valor that is presented to a local veteran at the 4-H Volunteer Banquet in January. 4-H members with any, or no level of sewing experience are invited, and highly encouraged to participate. If you would like to learn more about this fun volunteer experience or sign up, please call the Extension Office at 402-352-3821.



Communication Event

The Communication Event will be held on Sunday, April 7 at 4:00 p.m. in the West Education Center at Central Community College, Columbus, Nebraska. Information on the specific communication events is in the flier attached to the end of the newsletter. This event is a great way for 4-Hers to start or expand on their public speaking or presentation skills.

For more information and how to register online utilizing 4HOnline for any of the events, please refer to the attached flier, or contact Brenda by calling the Colfax County Extension Office at (402) 352-3821, or email bdolezal2@unl.edu. Registration is due by **March 20, 2024**.



4-H Enrollment

Youth and volunteers can now enroll in 4-H for the new year! When re-enrolling, please **DO NOT** create a new account/enrollment. Use your email address and password from last year to log in and start your re-enrollment for this year. The link to 4HOnline is: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

If you need assistance with completing your registration, please contact Brenda by calling the Extension Office at (402) 352-3821, or email bdolezal2@unl.edu. You can also find some helpful resources to help you through this process by visiting the following link: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/colfax/enrollment-resources-for-4honline/>.

When reviewing your information, please be sure your email address is one that your family regularly checks. This email address is where all your 4-H, newsletter, county fair and state fair information is sent. Please also remember when enrolling in 4HOnline to use **Colfax County**, not the county you live in.

The Enrollment fee is \$10.00 for both Clover Kids and Traditional Age 4-H members. This enrollment fee will be able to be paid online with a credit/debit card or paid in the office with cash or a check. Enroll by April 1st to be entered into a drawing to win 1 of 2 QC Buckets filled with fair supplies. **Please enroll as soon as possible.**

New for 2024 Enrollment: A simplified project list has been implemented for the new enrollment year. This is to make 4-H enrollment easier for families, and to increase consistency statewide. Please remember that this is for project enrollment, NOT fair entries. A project is centered around a topic of interest for member(s) and should include a series of learning experiences. When you enroll in 4HOnline please be sure to complete your project enrollment. The project enrollment information assists us with providing members with information they will need to complete their 4-H projects.

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 a 4-H Camp Scholarship that is included at the end of this newsletter and return it to the Extension Office. The 4-H Council will provide 2/3 of the camp cost. Some options are:

- Nebraska 4-H Summer Camps
- Livestock Judging Camp, Lincoln
- Big Red Summer Academic Camps

4-H'ers who did not receive a camp scholarship in 2023 will have first priority, but all 4-H'ers are encouraged to apply. To see full camp descriptions and to register online go to: <https://4h.unl.edu/camps-summer>

Deadline for the camp scholarships is June 1, 2024.



Livestock Judging Contest

The 2024 Butler, Colfax, and Platte County Livestock Judging Contest will be held May 23rd at the fairgrounds in Leigh. Registration is at 8:30 a.m.

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 have also received information on the 4-H Diamond Clover Recognition Program.

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 who notify 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.



Upcoming Fair Changes for 2024

Please note, that both the show and check in times have changed for poultry at the 2024 Colfax County Fair.

Check-in will now be on both Wednesday and Thursday of the fair.

Check-in times for Wednesday, July 17 are from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Check-in times for Thursday, July 18 are from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The show will be held on Saturday, July 20 beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Home Environment Changes

When preparing for the Colfax County Fair in 2024, please note that Home Environment is now Home Design and Restoration. Please be sure to read and pay attention to your fair book when pre-entering exhibits. There are multiple changes, especially in Visual Arts. We are here to help, please email any of us, or call: 402-352-3821 for assistance when preparing exhibits.

Youth Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

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). There is an online and Face-to-Face option for 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 if you complete the online modules.

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.

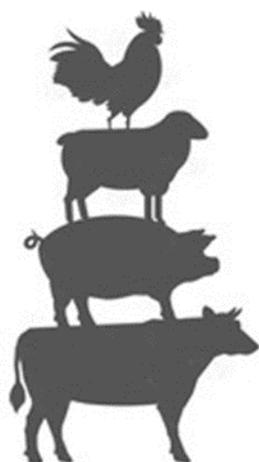
If the youth passes, payment for the completed test-out course will be required after the completion of the test. No payment is required to attempt the test. Test-out costs are:

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

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

New this year, Face-to-Face YQCA trainings are being offered by Aleisha Meusch in Butler County. The first one will be Saturday, March 9th in Butler County. Information on these trainings and requirements are in the flier attached to the end of the newsletter. There is a training being offered immediately following the Butler, Colfax, and Platte County Livestock Judging Contest in the 4-H building. ***Please note, there is a pre-test that must be completed prior to the Face-to-Face trainings. The Face-to-Face options are \$3.*** Please refer any questions on the Face-to-Face clinics to Aleisha Meusch by emailing: aliesha.meusch@unl.edu

The YQCA training completion deadline is May 31.



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.*



Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI)

NAYI will be held July 8-12, 2024, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus. 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, 2024, to apply. Applications for NAYI are available at nda.nebraska.gov/nayi and must be submitted online. This year's theme is "Leading Your Legacy."

Big Red Academic Camps

Are you ready to take the next step towards a successful future? Consider being a part of an immersive and empowering college and career ready experience through Big Red Camps 2024! Embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery, skill-building, and preparation for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. These experiential learning opportunities allow you to work alongside UNL faculty and staff as well as business and industry professionals. Incoming freshmen through seniors during the 2024-25 school year are welcome. Whether you're a first-time camper or a returning veteran, there is a guaranteed unforgettable experience filled with learning and fun! Don't delay, reserve your spot today! For more information and to register, visit: 4h.unl.edu/big-red-camps or contact: BigRedCamps@unl.edu.

Upcoming Events:

April 1: 4-H Enrollment completion deadline to be entered in the drawing for a QC Supply bucket filled with fair supplies

April 7: Communication Event at the West Education Center at Central Community College, Columbus, Nebraska-4:00 p.m.

April 15: Deadline to register for NAYI

April 26: Extension Office Closed for Arbor Day

April 29: Colfax County Agricultural Literacy Day at the Fairgrounds in Leigh

May 6: 4-H Council Meeting at the Clarkson Library-7:00 p.m.

May 23: Butler, Colfax, and Platte County Livestock Judging Contest at the Fairgrounds in Leigh, Nebraska

May 23: Face-to-Face YQCA Training immediately following the Livestock Judging Contest awards

May 27: Extension Office Closed for Memorial Day

May 31: YQCA Completion Deadline

May 31: Livestock ID Deadline

June 1: Camp Scholarship Deadline

June 11: 4-H Council Meeting at the Extension Office-7:00 p.m.

June 19: Extension Office Closed for Juneteenth Day

