



4-H Youth Development

Bow Knot

4-H Newsletter

431 So. 10th Avenue | Broken Bow, NE 68822 | (308) 872-6831 | www.custer.unl.edu



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL	
1	Deadline for 4-H membership contest
1	4-H Public Speaking Contest, 4-H Building, 6:30 p.m.
19	Deadline for Early Enrollment 4-H membership fees due in the Extension Office from Organizational Leaders
20	Nebraska State 4-H BB Gun Championships, Grand Island
21	Nebraska State 4-H Air Rifle Championships, Grand Island
26	Office closed for Arbor Day
28	Custer County Challenge Beef Progress Show, Fairgrounds in Broken Bow
MAY	
1	4-H T-Shirt Orders due
15	2025 CWF Payment Due
20	4-H Council Meeting, 4-H Building, 7:30 p.m.
27	Office closed for Memorial Day
29	Animal Science Discover Day, Curtiss
31	4-H Horse ID's and Advancement Levels due in Extension Office
JUNE	
1	State 4-H Horse Show Deadline for Online Entries
13	Youth Quality Assurance Training, Broken Bow Municipal Building, 6:30 p.m.
14	4-H Livestock ID's due in Extension Office from Leaders
14	State Fair & Aksarben DNA Samples due for Market Beef, Breeding Beef, Market Swine, Breeding Swine, Market Lambs, Breeding Sheep, Meat Goat, Breeding Meat Goat, and Feeder Calf
15	Deadline for 4-H ONLINE Enrollments
18	State 4-H Premier Communication Event (Public Speaking Contest), Lincoln
20-21	P.A.S.E. Animal Science Judging Contest, UNL, Lincoln
21	4-H Market Beef Carcass nominations due in Extension Office
22-28	2024 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships, Grand Island, NE
28	COUNTY FAIR ONLINE ENTRIES DUE by 5:00 p.m.
JULY	
1	Registrations due online for Custer County 4-H 3D Archery Match by 5:00 p.m.

CUSTER COUNTY FARM BUREAU TO SPONSOR CUSTER COUNTY 4-H T-SHIRTS



The Custer County Farm Bureau will again be a sponsor for the Custer County 4-H t-shirts in 2024. The Custer County 4-H t-shirts will be available to any 4-H member. The kelly green t-shirt is made of 50% cotton, 50% polyester with reinforced collar and hemmed sleeves. It will have white lettering on the left front shoulder area. The Farm Bureau logo will be printed between the shoulders on the back of the t-shirt. Cost is \$6.00 for youth sizes and \$7.00 for adult sizes (2X and 3X extra cost). These t-shirts are approved as proper dress for showing all livestock species, except horses and dogs, at county fair. Youth sizes are small (6-8), medium (10-12), and large (14-16). Adult sizes range from small to 3X. (Price increases with each X.) 4-H members may each order one shirt at the reduced price.

If volunteers would like to order t-shirts or youth would like to order extra shirts, please use the proper order form. Shirts for volunteers and extra shirts for 4-H members will be full price as indicated on the order form.

All orders are due **May 1**. Money must accompany orders. **This will be the only order made until May 2025.** T-shirt order forms were emailed to organizational leaders.

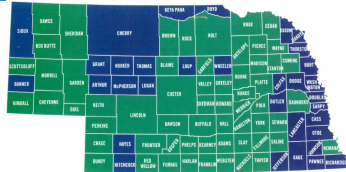
Organizational leaders will collect the money from their 4-H club families. Collect money from club members the same way that you collected membership fees. Any checks must be made payable to: **4-H ACTIVITIES.**



4-H COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS

The Custer County 4-H Council elected officers for the 2024 year at their January 22 meeting. They are:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| President | Jeff Witthuhn |
| Vice-President | Chase Christen |
| Secretary | Kyla Olson |
| Treasurer | Christy Berghorst |



Constellation has contributed MORE THAN \$230,000 to 4-H in the 60 Nebraska counties it serves.

The Choice Gas selection period is April 4-24, 2024.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.





COUNTY FAIR ENTRIES

4-H entries must be made according to the printed 2024 Custer County Fair Premium Book and entered online by 5:00 p.m. on June 28. Instructions for online entries will be emailed to 4-H families on approximately May 15. At the September 19, 2022 4-H Council meeting, the following motion was made. ***“Every 4-H member is eligible for a “one-time” member exemption for late county fair entries. The exemption provides the ability (one-time in a 4-H member’s career) for the 4-H member to acknowledge they missed the county fair entry deadline, with a \$25 late fee charged per member.”***

ARE YOU ENROLLED IN THE 4-H BUCKET CALF PROJECT?

****The following information does not apply to Clover Kids who plan to show a bucket calf.**
See February Bow Knot for Clover Kid bucket calf guidelines.**



Only 4-H members 8-12 years of age as of January 1 of the current year are eligible to show in the bucket calf project. All calves must have been born between January 1 and May 15 of the current year and raised by artificial means. **By June 14, all bucket calves must be castrated (if bulls), dehorned, tagged with the official eartag, and officially identified on the bucket calf ID form (available at the Extension Office or online at <https://go.unl.edu/7bz2>).** Your bucket calf ID form must be turned in to your organizational leader **prior** to June 14. Check with your club leader for your club deadline.

Each member enrolled in the Bucket Calf project must complete the 4-H Bucket Calf Project Record Book, which is a part of the judging process at the county fair. The record book contains a diary which 4-H'ers must keep on their bucket calf, indicating how they cared for their calf. Records and diary should be in the 4-H'ers own handwriting. The 4-H Bucket Calf Record is available at the Extension Office or online at: <https://go.unl.edu/vrx6>. **The 4-H Bucket Calf Project Record Book is due in the Extension Office by 5:00 p.m. on June 28.** 4-H entries must be made according to the printed 2024 Custer County Fair Premium Book and entered online by 5:00 p.m. on June 28. Instructions for online entries will be emailed to 4-H families on approximately May 15.

Classes will be interview judged based on completion of records and diary to the best of the member's ability. Calves should be clean and brushed; clipping optional. 4-H'ers should have knowledge concerning the proper care of their bucket calf. Calves will be shown by halter (rope or leather). The quality and breed of the calf will not be considered, since the purchase is not made on that basis. Classes may be split at the Bucket Calf Superintendent's discretion. A 4-H member may exhibit one bucket calf. Bucket calves must be checked-in at the covered show ring on Sunday, July 28, 4:30-5:30 p.m. and will not be released until 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 1. The Bucket Calf Interviews will start at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 29. The Bucket Calf Parade will be held at 11:00 a.m. Exhibitors are required to wear a white shirt or blouse with 4-H chevron or a Custer County 4-H T-shirt and jeans/slacks.

If you have questions regarding the bucket calf project, please contact Troy at the Extension Office.

CUSTER COUNTY CHALLENGE BEEF PROGRESS SHOW



4-H and FFA beef exhibitors should plan to attend the Custer County Challenge Beef Progress Show. The show will be held on Sunday, April 28 at the Custer County Fairgrounds in Broken Bow. Classes will be held for breeding heifers, market heifers, market steers, and showmanship. The entry fee for Custer County 4-H and FFA exhibitors is \$20 per head. The show is sanctioned by the Junior Nebraska Cattlemen. For more information contact Marla Stallbaumer at 308-870-1971. Pre-registrations not required.

For Organizational Leaders Only... As soon as the April 1 early enrollment deadline is past, we will create reports of your members and send them to you very quickly so that you will know who is enrolled early in your 4-H club. We will give organizational leaders until **Friday, April 19**, to turn in their \$7.00 per member fees based on the 4-H Online enrollments for their club. You can be collecting the \$7.00 per member fee prior to that time, as you know members have enrolled. **Please turn in your club's membership fees to the Extension Office on or before Friday, April 19.** We will send you a final report of your club's membership **AFTER** the June 15 statewide enrollment deadline has passed.

Members who enroll April 2-June 15 will need to pay their \$7.00 member fee directly to the Extension Office **BEFORE** their enrollment will be approved by Extension Staff.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call, (308) 872-6831.

4-H HORSE PROGRAM UPDATES



Due May 31:

- Deadline for all 4-H Horse ID's from horse leaders or organizational leaders.
- Deadline for advancement levels testing for youth entering the State 4-H Horse Expo
- There are no District 4-H Horse Shows.

Due June 1:

- State 4-H Horse Expo Entries. State 4-H Horse Expo entry information can be found online at: <https://4h.unl.edu/horse-expo-show>
- Online State 4-H Horse Expo entries open May 1 and closes on June 1 at 5:00 p.m. CT.

Due July 15:

- To encourage safe handling of horses, all 4-H members enrolled in the horse project that will be riding will have passed at least Level I (Horse Project Advancement Levels) before July 15 to be eligible to show in the 2024 Custer County Fair. If a 4-H member is only going to show in showmanship or halter at County Fair, then they must pass everything in Level I except the "II. Riding" portion of the skills test by the above date.



**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
APRIL 21-27, 2024**

*Thank you
4-H Volunteers for your dedicated support of the
Custer County 4-H program!*

LIVESTOCK JUNIOR SUPERINTENDENTS

At the November 2019 Livestock Committee Meeting, it was decided to utilize junior superintendents for the county fair livestock shows. The livestock superintendents will select the junior superintendents. Junior Superintendents must be 13 years old, as of January 1 and submit an essay on "Skills I Can Contribute As A Livestock Junior Superintendent." Junior Superintendents would help with weigh-in's at the county fair, run errands for the weigh-in's, help in the showing, etc. Junior Superintendents would have an opportunity to gain leadership and citizenship skills through this experience. Essays must be submitted to the Extension Office by June 1. They may be submitted in hard copy or emailed to cpeterson2@unl.edu.



Nebraska Extension in Custer County is once again partnering with Adams Land and Cattle to hold an exciting and interactive Youth Quality Assurance Training the **evening of Thursday, June 13**. **This will be an in-person event held at the Municipal Building in Broken Bow**. Any Custer County 4-H member (4-H age 8-18) or FFA member who plans to show sheep, beef, swine, dairy, rabbits, poultry, and/or goats at the Custer County Fair, Nebraska State Fair, and/or Aksarben needs to be trained for Quality Assurance. **4-H and/or FFA members ages 19-21 will need to complete the online training course and NOT attend the in-person training.**

Adams Land & Cattle, Merck, and Boehringer-Ingelheim are again sponsoring the in-person event at no cost to the youth. **We request that you register youth by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15. Register at: <https://go.unl.edu/youthaga24>.**

Shirts will be provided to youth who register by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15.

Schedule of Events for Thursday, June 13:

- Registration begins at 6:15 p.m. at the Broken Bow Municipal Building, 314 So. 10 Avenue.
- The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will last approximately 1.5 hours.
- Parents may pick up participants at 8:00 p.m.



During the training, youth will move through a series of stations to educate them on animal Quality Assurance. All Custer County youth who need Quality Assurance training are encouraged to attend. We would like as many 4-H'ers as possible to attend this exciting and interactive Quality Assurance training.

Youth who are not able to attend the in-person training on June 13, will need to complete the online Quality Assurance Training course by June 15.

Online registrations are due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15. Register at: <https://go.unl.edu/youthaga24>.

***With the changes in quality assurance going to a national training program called Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) there is a \$3 fee/participant for face-to-face trainings. This fee is being paid by Adams Land and Cattle. After the training each participant will be given a coupon with a code that will then need to be entered into the YQCA website. This coupon code will cover the \$3 fee. Instructions for entering the required information for YQCA will be given to participants the night of the training along with the coupon code.**

OPTIONS FOR YOUTH UNABLE TO ATTEND THE JUNE 14 QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING...

- Online Course. The online training course is available at: <https://yqcaprogram.org/> and the cost is \$12 per person.
- Ages 12-14: "test out" of the intermediate level online for a \$36 fee. <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Ages 15-18: "test out" of the senior level online for a \$48 fee. <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

All training and/or testing must be completed by June 15.

COUNTY FAIR ENTRY PROCESS IN 2024

Custer County will be utilizing the ShoWorks county fair entry process again this year. This will be the same process that was used to make entries in 2023. If you have ever entered livestock for State Fair, it is the same process. I will be providing more information regarding this process **AFTER** May 15. There will be a lot of information emailed to 4-H families regarding this process, so please be sure to check your email on a regular basis. If you would like to provide our office with an updated email or add an email, give us a call. The deadline for submitting county fair entries will be 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28.

ANIMAL SCIENCE DISCOVER DAY



Youth ages 8-18 will interact with Animal Science faculty and educators, gain knowledge of the livestock industry and explore careers in animal science.

May 29, 2024

9:00am - 3:30pm CT

NCTA Campus in Curtis, NE
Ag Education Center

Cost: \$15 includes lunch

Register by May 22

Late registrations \$20

Registration link:

<https://cvent.me/mNXrmy>



For more information contact Kimberly at kimberly.cook@unl.edu

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status.
Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination.



Sponsored in part by:



**BUILDING
TOMORROW
TOGETHER®**

SCHOOL PROJECTS VS. 4-H PROJECTS



4-H members, while you think about or begin to work on 4-H projects for the 2024 year, please keep in mind that articles entered at the county fair as a 4-H project must have been completed as a 4-H project and not used as a project for any other organization or school. Violation of rules renders the exhibitor subject to loss of premium money, ribbons, other awards, and/or elimination from the show.



Troy M. Walz

Troy M. Walz
Extension Educator
twalz1@unl.edu

Colleen Peterson

Colleen Peterson
4-H Aide
cpeterson2@unl.edu