



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER	
2	Office closed for holiday
8	2025 CWF Curriculum Meeting, 2:00 p.m., 4-H Building
13	2025 CWF Payment Due
15	Record books and award applications due to Organizational Leaders
16	4-H Council Meeting, 4-H Building, 7:30 p.m.
26-29	Aksarben 4-H Stock Show, State Fairgrounds, Grand Island
28	2024 Nebraska Youth Smallbore Silhouette Invitational, Pressey Wildlife Management Area, Oconto
30	Entries due for 4-H Window Display Contest
OCTOBER	
1	Record books, award applications, secretary books and leader year-end reports due in the Extension Office.
4	4-H Window Display Contest judging day
6-12	National 4-H Week
14	Office closed for Columbus Day
NOVEMBER	
10	2025 CWF Curriculum Meeting, 4-H Building, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
11	Office closed for Veteran's Day
15	2025 CWF Payment Due
17	4-H Recognition Program, 4-H Building, 2:00 p.m.
17	4-H Council Meeting, 4-H Building, following the 4-H Recognition Program
28-29	Office closed for Thanksgiving
DECEMBER	
25	Office closed for holiday



TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THE **2024 CUSTER COUNTY FAIR** A BIG SUCCESS!

FROM
"THE EXTENSION STAFF"

Troy, Colleen, Shawn, Cindy G. and Cindy P.

STATE FAIR ENTRIES

Congratulations to all 4-H'ers who had their exhibits selected to go to State Fair. Exhibits will be ready to be picked up at the Extension Office on Wednesday, September 4.



GOOD LUCK at State Fair!!




4-H COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED

The next 4-H Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 16, 7:30 p.m. The agenda will be posted at the Custer County Courthouse in Broken Bow after September 9.

Please remember to send your thank you notes to:

- the sponsor of the trophy, prize, or award you received at a pre-fair contest, County Fair, or State Fair
- your club leaders for all the help and support they've given during the year
- 4-H Superintendents and Volunteers
- the Custer County Ag Society for supporting the 4-H program, having the fairgrounds in such nice condition, and for managing the 4-H Livestock Auction
- Jim Eberle, Dustin Eberle, and Cory Palmer for being the auctioneers at the 4-H Livestock Auction
- the business or person who purchased your livestock at the 4-H Livestock Auction

Friend of 4-H

 "Friend of 4-H" nominations are due in the Extension Office on or before September 13. You may submit your written nomination for an individual, family, or business that you feel greatly contributed to 4-H in Custer County. Be sure to include a paragraph about how your nominee has contributed to the 4-H program.

4-H Hardluck Award

Do you have a 4-H'er in your club that has experienced "hardluck" during the year? The Harry Ray Boyles family of Mason City sponsors a "4-H Hardluck Award." A \$25.00 cash award will be presented to the winner. A 4-H leader must recommend and submit an application to the Extension Office on or before October 1. Applications can be printed at [4-H Hardluck Award](#).

4-H Beef Hardluck Award

Do you have a 4-H'er in your club that has experienced "hardluck" with their 4-H beef project during the year? The Albert Sherbeck family sponsors a "4-H Beef Hardluck Award," in memory of Albert Sherbeck. A cash award will be presented to the winner. Members may apply for this award by completing the simple application which can be found at [4-H Beef Hardluck Award](#). Applications are due at the Extension Office on or before October 1.

NEW 4-H Achievement Application Handbook is Available

4-H members are encouraged to apply for 4-H awards. The award applications are now referred to as **4-H Achievement Applications**. There are awards available on a county, state, and national level. The goal for a 4-H member who is applying for 4-H awards would be to win a trip to National 4-H Congress! To make an application, you will need:

1. [2024 Custer County 4-H Achievement Application Directions](#)
2. Cover (4-H Covers are available for sale at the Extension Office.)
3. [2024 Custer County 4-H Award Entry Sheet](#)
4. [2024 Custer County 4-H Achievement Application Activities Form](#)
5. "My Experiences" Portion of the Application
(Instructions available at [2024 Custer County 4-H Achievement Application Directions](#).)

The current year's project record books **are not** a part of this application format. However, project record books must still be completed and turned in, in order to complete your projects.

Anyone interested in applying for an award should contact Colleen for more information. Applications are due to the club leaders September 15. Samples of applications can be viewed online at:

[Sample My Experiences Ages 8 to 14 by Jan. 1](#)
[Sample 1 My Experiences Ages 15 to 18 by Jan. 1](#)
[Sample 2 My Experiences Ages 15 to 18 by Jan. 1](#)

Please discard any 4-H Award Application information from previous years. A good 4-H record will help you recall your many experiences in 4-H in later years and will be an asset when applying for scholarships.

School Projects vs. 4-H Projects

4-H members, while you think about or begin to work on 4-H projects for the upcoming 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 monies, ribbons, other awards, and/or elimination from the show.



4-H MEMBERS...Due to Club Leaders by September 15

4-H members. . . . the following is a checklist of what is due to club leaders by September 15:

- ✓ **Record Books**...Please turn all record books in to your **PRIMARY CLUB**. If you have record books that should be signed by a leader in another club, you can have them signed, but please turn **ALL RECORD BOOKS INTO YOUR PRIMARY CLUB**.
- ✓ **4-H Achievement Applications** (also known as 4-H Awards Applications)
- ✓ **Diamond Clover Award Forms** (Please hand these in separately. **Do Not** include these forms with your record books.)

Keep in mind that to complete your project(s), you must finish your project record book(s). A 4-H member does not have to exhibit at the county fair to complete a project. County fair is an optional activity that 4-H'ers can participate in. For example, your garden may have been eaten up by the grasshoppers or your horse was sick the day before fair. You have still put a lot of work into your project and by completing your record book, you will still get credit for that project.

Record book(s) are only required for the 4-H project(s) which youth enroll in on 4-H Online...one record book per project, not one record book per fair exhibit! Include all fair exhibits for a 4-H project into one record book. Record books can be found online at: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/custer/custer-county-4-h-club-resources/>. Please do not just do a "Google search" for a record book. **An email was sent to all 4-H families regarding record books on August 14.**

Record book(s) are NOT NEEDED for:

- **June Jamboree county fair exhibits**....any youth may participate in June Jamboree exhibits. June Jamboree is not just for 4-H members.
- **Fashion Show**...Fashion Show is an activity which a 4-H member takes part in at the county fair to show their clothing exhibit...like showmanship is for an animal project. Please include your Fashion Show information and experiences in your 4-H clothing project record book. Example: If you are enrolled in STEAM Clothing 1 and STEAM Beyond The Needle, you will need 2 separate record books (1 for each project). Include the fashion show information for STEAM Clothing 1 in that particular project record. Include the fashion show information for STEAM Beyond The Needle in that particular project record.
- **Special Home Environment Pinterest Exhibit**...This class is only for 4-H members enrolled in Quilt Quest, Design My Place, Heirloom Treasures, Design Decisions, Sketchbook Crossroads, and/or Portfolio Pathways. Please include your Special Home Environment Pinterest exhibit information and learning experiences in one of those project record books
- **Tablesettings**...Tablesettings is a county fair exhibit only...not a 4-H project which youth enroll in on 4-H Online. Information regarding your Tablesetting fair exhibit may be included in your foods, clothing, or home environment project record book(s).
- **Decorate Your Cupcake/Pull Apart Cupcake Cake**...Decorate Your Cupcake/Pull Apart Cupcake Cake is only a county fair activity available to any 4-H member enrolled in a foods project or a creative foods artistry project...not a 4-H project which youth enroll in on 4-H Online.
- **Showmanship**...is a county fair class. Showmanship information should be included with the species record book.
- **4-H Flop Exhibit**...is a county fair exhibit only...not a 4-H project which youth enroll in on 4-H Online.

Please do not put record sheets in plastic protector pages!!

Premium Money

The Custer County Ag Society awards premium money for exhibits entered at the county fair. In order to receive premium money, 4-H'ers **MUST** complete their record book(s) for their 4-H project(s) in which the exhibit(s) was entered. The following is printed in the Custer County Fair Premium Book:

"Premium checks will be given to the organizational leader for his/her club members and should be held until the final reports of the club members are completed and turned in on or before October 1. If given to club members before reports are turned in, leaders will assume the responsibility for the members to complete and submit reports before October 1."

Premium checks will be issued by the Ag Society, one check for each club. We will contact organizational leaders when the checks arrive (probably early October). Premium money will be paid to 4-H members for the projects they exhibited in each club. A 4-H'er should receive premium money as long as they completed and turned in their record book(s) to their leader(s) for their project(s) in each club.

Due from 4-H Organizational Leaders on or before Tuesday, October 1..

The following is a checklist of what is due in the Extension Office from organizational leaders on or before Tuesday, October 1.

- √ **4-H Club Project Completion Report**...listing 4-H members with projects completed. This report was mailed to organizational leaders on August 15. Please **CROSS OUT PROJECT(S) NOT COMPLETED**...which means you did not receive a completed 4-H record book/sheet for that project. Your report will include all projects for a 4-H member in their **PRIMARY CLUB**. **PLEASE COLLECT ALL 4-H PROJECT RECORDS THAT ARE LISTED ON YOUR REPORT**. Organizational leaders of a member's secondary club may sign the record books for a particular project, but please have the member turn the completed records to the organizational leader of their **PRIMARY CLUB**. Project completion means the 4-H member participated in a project, learned the life skills involved, and completed and submitted the 4-H project record. Exhibiting at the county fair is not a requirement to complete a 4-H project. Many circumstances exist where 4-H'ers may not be able to exhibit at the county fair, but they still participated in the project and learned a new skill. It is important for organizational leaders to complete this form and return to the Extension Office. This is what is used to make the 4-H members' project completion certificates.
- √ **Record Books**...Record book(s) are only required for the 4-H project(s) which youth enroll in on 4-H Online...one record book per project, not one record book per fair exhibit! Include all fair exhibits for a 4-H project into one record book. Record books can be found online at: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/custer/custer-county-4-h-club-resources/>. Please do not just do a "Google search" for a record book. **An email was sent to all 4-H families regarding record books on August 14.**
- √ **4-H Achievement Applications...(Also known as 4-H Award Applications)** The directions and forms for completing a 4-H Achievement Application can be found online at: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/custer/>. Click on Custer County 4-H in the red bar at the top of the page. From the dropdown, select "4-H Member & Club Resources." Scroll down to "County 4-H Achievement Application Directions and Application Forms." Please have the 4-H Achievement Applications separated from the record books when you turn them into the Extension Office.
- √ [Outstanding 4-H Member Nominations](#)
- √ [Hardluck Award Applications](#)
- √ [4-H Beef Hardluck Award Applications](#)
- √ **4-H Club Secretary Book**
- √ **Top 4-H .22 Shooter Applications**
- √ **Top 4-H Shooter Applications**
- √ **Most Improved 4-H Shooter Applications**
- √ [Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence Summary Form](#)
- √ **Diamond Clover Award Forms**...*Please do not put these with the individual 4-H'ers record books. Please hand these in separately from the record books. Link to Diamond Clover forms - <https://4h.unl.edu/diamond-clover>*
- √ [Joyce Clarke Memorial Community Service Award Applications](#)

Organizational Leaders...When you bring your record books and award applications in to the Extension Office, please have the 4-H Achievement Applications (4-H Award Applications, usually in a green 4-H folder) separated from the rest of the club's record books. If they are mingled in with the rest of the club's record books, they may be missed for awards judging. If you have any questions regarding what is due by October 1, contact Colleen at the Extension Office.



4-H Shooting Sports News

2024 Nebraska Youth Smallbore Silhouette Invitational...This year's annual Nebraska Youth Smallbore Silhouette Invitational (previously known as the Nebraska High School Smallbore Silhouette Championships or the Pressey Shoot) will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024, at the Pressey Wildlife Management Area. This is a "free" competition, open to all youth age 11 years old or older who have successfully completed Hunter Education and who have not yet graduated from high school. Proof of Hunter Education certification is required prior to being allowed to compete. Shooters should bring either their Hunter Education card or certificate to show at registration on the day of the match. All first time shooters at the event will receive one free box of .22 ammo!

The range will open for practice at 8:00 a.m., with registration continuing until 9:30 a.m. Matches will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude mid-afternoon. Competitors will be grouped in various classes according to age, rifle weight, sight type, and experience level, competing against others in their own class. Individuals and teams are encouraged to enter. Teams will consist of 4 shooters from the same school or 4-H club. Teams may also enter in the "open" category if they do not fit the requirement for school or 4-H teams, however, open teams will not qualify to win the Overall Team Award. Trophies or medals will be awarded to the winners of each class.

Only equipment authorized by NRA Smallbore Rifle Silhouette Rules will be permitted. Shooters should bring their own rifle and ammunition (Standard or High Velocity .22 short, long, or long rifle.) No Stingers or other Ultra High Velocity ammo allowed. Targets are NRA ½ scale. Course of fire will be 40 rounds fired in two, 5-round stages at 40, 60, 77 and 100 meters.

ONLINE REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Pre-registration will be online this year. The deadline for pre-registering online is noon on Thursday, September 26. Registrations can also be made the day of the event. Pre-registration by noon on Thursday, September 26 is **strongly encouraged!** The registration link for individuals is below.

Individual Registration: <https://go.unl.edu/presseyindividual>

**There will NOT be a meal provided.
Shooters and their families will need to bring their own food.**

Pressey WMA is located approximately 17 miles south of Broken Bow, NE and 30 miles north of Lexington, NE. Camping is available at the WMA. For more event details, contact Matthew Haumont at (308) 527-3403 or nebraskasilhouette@gmail.com. This invitational is the longest running organized youth shooting event in Nebraska!

State 4-H Shotgun Championships - September 14-15 at Heartland Public Shooting Park near Grand Island.
More information will be available at a later date at: <https://events.unl.edu/NE4H-Shooting-Sports/2024/09/14/180520/>.

State 4-H Outdoor Archery Championships - September 21-22 at Heartland Public Shooting Park near Grand Island.
More information will be available at a later date at: <https://events.unl.edu/NE4H-Shooting-Sports/2024/09/21/180547/>.



2024 4-H Recognition Event

Sunday, November 17, 2024 at the 4-H Building in Broken Bow

2:00 p.m. - 4-H Council Election Results,
4-H Member, Leader, & Club Awards

The 4-H Recognition Event will be held on Sunday afternoon, November 17, 2:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building on the Custer County Fairgrounds. Each 4-H Council member will provide one dozen cookies. A drink will be provided. We are looking forward to showcasing 4-H members, leaders, donors, and awards. Plan to attend!

JOYCE CLARKE MEMORIAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Joyce Clarke Memorial Community Service Award was funded in August 2017 after the passing of long time 4-H supporter Joyce E. Clarke of Berwyn, NE. Joyce was involved heavily in 4-H for more than half a century as a leader, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend. Even though Joyce was busy all year long with 4-H, other organizations and activities, she always found time to help others. You would see her at numerous pancake and soup supper benefits, attending hotdog and hamburger fundraisers, or if you saw her at church, in the parking lot at the grocery store, or etc. you could count on her to purchase a raffle ticket for a good cause. Whatever she was doing she would put others needs in front of her own. After attending her last Custer County Fair in 2017 she passed, and the Clarke family decided to give part of her memorial money to develop a community service award to be given annually to a Custer County 4-H club that is making a significant contribution to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This club should be living the 4-H pledge by putting their "hands to larger service", for their club, their community, our country and our world. Preference will be given to the club that supports several different community service projects, and involve many of their members, leaders, and parents during a twelve month period (from August 15th to August 15th). One hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) will be awarded to a Custer County 4-H Club that completes the application, returns it to the Nebraska Extension - Custer County Office before the deadline of October 3, and is chosen by the Clarke family as the outstanding service club. The winning club will receive this award at the 4-H Recognition Night in November. One hundred dollars (\$100) of the money can be kept by the club to do as they wish, but twenty five dollars (\$25) of the award money must be set aside as "seed money" to begin the next year's round of giving back to the community that has given so much to them. In short, these twenty-five dollars must be given to a community service project of the clubs choosing. The application form and information can be found online at:

[JOYCE CLARKE MEMORIAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD](#)



2024 National 4-H Week



National 4-H Week - October 6-12, 2024

National 4-H Week will be celebrated October 6-12. Nebraska 4-H prepares youth to make informed decisions about their college and career path. Young people develop skills through their 4-H projects that will lead to greater persistence in college and employability. Many times a youth engages in a career or business which was related to one or more of their 4-H projects. In Custer County, there are currently 415 youth and 68 volunteers involved in 4-H. 4-H is a community of more than 6.5 million young people nationwide learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

Enter the 4-H Window Display Contest

The contest will be held during National 4-H Week, October 6-12, and is being sponsored by the 4-H Council to promote the 4-H program in Custer County. Cash prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st - \$25; 2nd - \$20; and 3rd - \$15. 4-H clubs may decorate a store window in their own community. Please make sure you get permission from the store owner before making your plans. Windows must be decorated using the theme, "**Opportunity4All**".

Windows will be judged between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4. Displays must not be removed until October 13. Entry deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 30. Enter online at:

<https://goo.gl/forms/8MLyPJ9gFZTB8c5l1>.

Troy M. Walz
Extension Educator
twalz1@unl.edu

Colleen Peterson
4-H Aide
cpeterson2@unl.edu