



December 2023

UNL Extension Dixon County

57905 866 Road

Concord, NE 68728

Phone: (402) 584-2234

Email: dixon-county@unl.edu

Website: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dixon/4h/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNL-Extension-Dixon-County>



CALENDAR

****Haskell Ag Lab = Haskell or HAL****

Dec. 1..... Fed Steer Challenge Deadline
Dec. 2..... Haskell Winter Fest – 9:00 AM to Noon
Dec. 4..... Extension Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at HAL
Dec. 12..... Haskell Coffee & Conversation, 9:00 AM
Dec. 15..... Hixon-Lied entry deadline
..... Catch-a-Calf Deadline
Dec. 22-Jan. 1 Christmas Day & Holiday Break (Haskell Closed)
Dec. 31..... 4-H Ambassadors Application ****New Deadline****
Jan. 2, 2024..... Office hours resume at Haskell
Jan. 5 Omaha Fashion Week Application Deadline
..... State Achievement Application Deadline
Jan. 15 Haskell Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 21 Achievement Celebration, YMCA, South Sioux
Jan. 22 4-H Council, 7:00 PM, Haskell
Feb. 1 4-H Online Enrollment Soft Deadline

Dixon County 4-H

*Find Your Club
Find Your Passion*

**Dixon County 4-H Enrollment
Is OPEN**

Soft Deadline February 1, 2024

To continue receiving communications

Final Deadline June 15, 2024

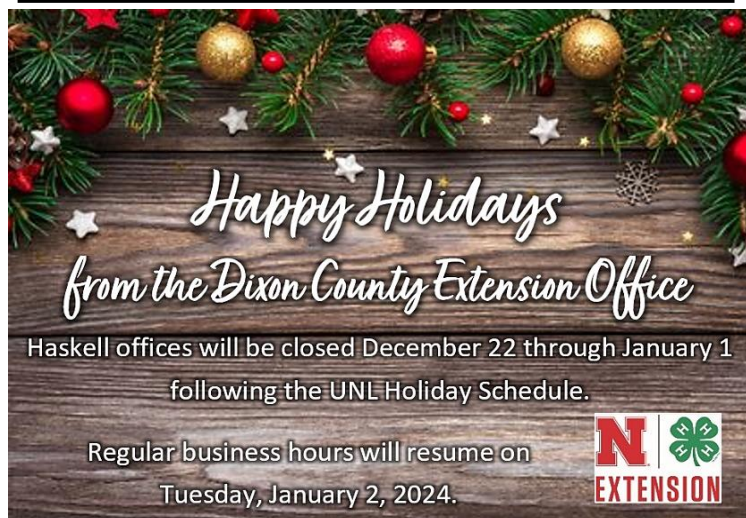
<https://v2.4honline.com>



2024 4-H Online Enrollment Update:

Starting for the 2024 program year, project selection is now optional. By successfully completing enrollment, youth will be eligible to participate in 4-H. While optional, it is encouraged for youth to select projects they are interested in exploring. Yet it will not determine participation of projects, contest, fairs, etc. This will make the enrollment process easier, and it won't limit what the members can be involved in throughout the 4-H year. (Exceptions: horse and shooting sports project members are **required** to select the projects due to parental consent required to participate in these projects).

IMPORTANT!! If you are re-enrolling in 4-H, please DO NOT create a new enrollment for youth who were enrolled last year. Use your email address and password from last year to log in and start your re-enrollment process for this year.



Angela Abts – Extension Educator

(4-H and Youth Development)

Mitiku Mamo – Extension Educator

(Water and Cropping Systems)

Sarah Paulos – Extension Educator

(Early Childhood)

Monica Ebmeier – Office Staff

mebmeier2@unl.edu (402) 584-2234

Haskell Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM



**Dixon County 4-H Ambassadors
Application Deadline has been
extended to December 31, 2023.**

**Use this opportunity to develop your
leadership skills. See the insert!**

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

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

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln



Congratulations to Kimber Bloom!

Kimber's name was drawn from a statewide list of youth who submitted their Special Agronomy Project evaluations.

She received a gardening tool set and bag.

Kimber is a member of the Dad's Helpers 4-H Club.

Way to go, Kimber!!!



2024 Special Garden Project - Princess of India Nasturtium

This Victorian-era heirloom flower can be grown in a variety of ways including in containers. It provides a splash of color from its scarlet flowers and much of the plant can be eaten.

****New for 2024**** With the changes to 4-H Online, youth are encouraged to enroll for Horticulture/Plant Science through 4-H Online. It will be up to the county office to keep track of the youth signed up and share the educational materials including the growing newsletter & evaluation (also in the shared folder on the Special Garden Project website).

Contact the Extension Office to add individual names to the list and ensure that your family get seeds (one packet per youth). Packets will be mailed to families in March/April.



2024 Dixon County Fair: July 6-10

(Static Entry Day – July 5)

2024 Nebraska State Fair: August 23 – September 2

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR MINIMUM SHOW AGE CHANGING TO 8 FOR 2024

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 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.

National Western Stock Show * 4-H Catch-A-Calf *

All 4-H members ages 14-18 can participate in the Catch-a-Calf program hosted at the National Western Stock Show scheduled for January 6-21, 2024. This program is designed so that successful participants catch a calf, feed it, and return with the animal one year later as a market-ready steer at the National Western Stock Show. Steers are judged on production and carcass quality, while the participants are judged on showmanship, record books, and a personal interview. The Grand and Reserve Grand Champion participants sell their steers at the Auction of Junior Livestock Champions held on the Friday of the Stock Show. Applications can be found at <https://nationalwestern.com/livestock-shows/catch-a-calf-program/>, as well as rules and materials. **Deadline to apply is December 15, 2023.**



Save the Date! Beef Weigh-in

Beef Weigh-in will be Saturday, February 10, 2024, 10:00 AM to Noon, at the UNL Haskell farm. We will be using new DNA envelopes, so any unused envelopes in your possession will be obsolete and should be recycled. EID tags and county tags are \$2.64 each and will be available that day. Those enrolled in Beef projects will receive paperwork

The **Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts** is seeking applications for the 27th annual Nebraska Young Artist Awards. The awards recognize 11th-grade students from Nebraska who are talented in visual art, dance, music, theater, and film and emerging media arts (which includes film, 3D models, interactive art, sound design and video games). These students exemplify the pinnacles of creativity in one of the fine and performing arts. For the areas of music, dance, theater, and film and emerging media arts, students must submit an online application, which includes uploading a sample of their work and a letter of recommendation from a teacher. Full instructions are available at <https://go.unl.edu/nyaa>.

Visual art students must submit an online application and include a photo of their work for judging. The winning students will have their work displayed in person in the School of Art, Art History & Design's MEDICI Gallery, and they will be invited to the Nebraska Young Artist Awards day in April. Visit <https://go.unl.edu/nyaa> for details.

The deadline for applications in all categories is December 15.

For more information, contact Chris Watson, director of recruitment for the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, at 402-472-0897 or chris.watson@unl.edu. More details at: <https://arts.unl.edu/hlfpa/nebraska-young-artist-awards>



- If you have not finished your Fair/Award Thank You notes, now would be a great time to thank those sponsors! We don't want to lose them!
- Please cash all checks before the end of the year!

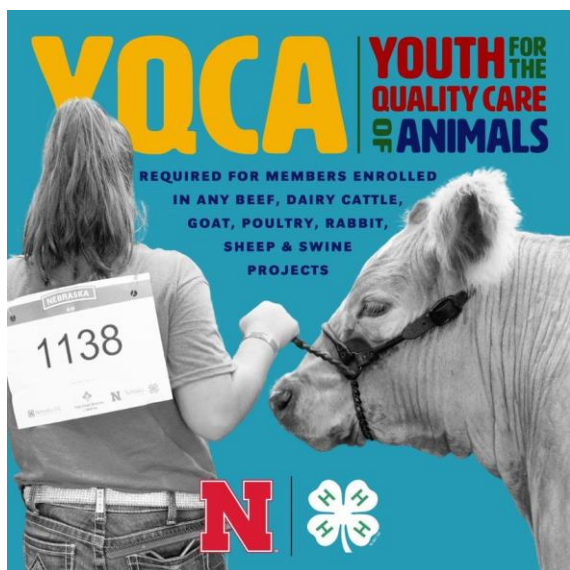
YQCA Certification During Christmas Break

<https://yqcaprogram.org>

The downtime of Christmas break would be a great time to knock out your youth's 2024 YQCA requirements! 4-H (ages 8-18) and FFA (under age 19) exhibitors as of January 1, 2024, who exhibit beef, goats, sheep, swine, rabbit & poultry are **REQUIRED** to **complete YQCA training by June 15, 2024**, to be eligible to participate at the Dixon County Fair and Nebraska State Fair. *(Clover Kids are not required to complete YQCA training)*

Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete an **annual** quality assurance training through the YQCA program.

YQCA is a national multi-species quality assurance program focused on three core pillars: food safety, animal well-being, and character development. 4-H members who exhibit beef, dairy cattle, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine must have the YQCA certification completed before fair. 4-H members who exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair will need to have their YQCA training requirements met by the date of entry for those respective shows.



The annual training may be completed by one of the following:

- **Face-to-Face Training with a Certified Instructor: \$3.00 each.** Registrations for Face-to-Face training are to be completed and paid on the YQCA website.
- **Online Course: \$12.00 each.**
- **Online Test Out:** This option is only available to youth in their first year of Intermediate (age 12) and first year of Senior (age 15) age levels. There is no test-out option for Juniors. **Costs are: Intermediate - \$36 (\$12 x 3 years of certification) and Senior - \$48 (\$12 x 4 years of certification).**

If you pass, you will not be required to complete the annual training requirements for the remainder of your current age level (Intermediates: 12-14; and Seniors: 15-18). Each test consists of fifty randomly selected questions and has a pass rate of 80% or better for certification.

- **Help documents** for web-based training, instructor-led training, test-out option, printing/downloading, and hearing disability accommodations, are available on the Dixon County Extension website:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dixon/4-h-animal-science-resources/>

- **Provide printed copies or pdf copies of your certificates.** Photos must be readable. Check before sending.

Winter Fun Pack

Looking for ways to keep the young people in your life engaged during the winter break? Check out the Winter 4-H Fun Pack - a collection of activities that youth can do on their own at home! Each recorded session of Living Room Learning is led by a Nebraska 4-H Youth Development professional. Getting started is simple: gather supplies, click the recording and let them do the rest. <https://4h.unl.edu/winter-fun-pack>

4-H at Home for the Holidays

This holiday season, unwrap the gift of exploration and creativity, and find your spark in the most festive and delightful way possible!

<https://4-h.org/clover/activities/clover-at-home-for-the-holidays/>



DIXON COUNTY

4-H ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

6:00-8:00 PM

Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA

601 Riverview Drive, South Sioux City



Come for swimming, pizza, awards, and fellowship with Dakota and Dixon County 4-H'ers and families.

Pizza and water will be provided.

Please bring treats to share (cookies, bars, snack mix).
RSVP by 1/16/2024 (for meal headcount) at 402-584-2234.



Often-Overlooked Projects

We all know about the 4-H livestock, cooking and sewing projects. But with nearly 50 projects to choose from, there are likely some you aren't familiar with. These five often-overlooked projects offer real-world skills and unique experiences: <https://go.unl.edu/2nd8>



Calling all middle school educators! We're hosting a virtual career exploration session on **Tuesday, Dec. 12. CAREER CHAT LIVE** allows students to engage with real-world career professionals across a broad range of fields, including: health care; agriculture, food and natural resources; communication and information systems; military service; human science and education; skilled and technical sciences; and business, marketing and management. Learn more and register at <https://4h.unl.edu/career-chat-live>.



State achievement applications are due Friday, Jan. 5!

These applications are used to select National 4-H Congress delegates, National 4-H Conference delegates, and Nebraska 4-H Foundation scholarship recipients. Learn more at <https://4h.unl.edu/achievement-application>



You are invited to apply for the OFW 4-H Collection shown during Student Night on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024** at the Omaha Design Center.

APPLICATION MATERIALS
<https://go.unl.edu/4hofw2024>

CONTACT:
 MNELSON82@UNL.EDU

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Be watching for special emails, Facebook posts, and the Dixon County Extension website for updated scholarship links. Check back often! <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dixon/awards-senior-scholarships/>

Dixon County 4-H Council Scholarship:

Applications will be mailed directly to this year's high school Seniors.

To be eligible, high school Seniors must be:

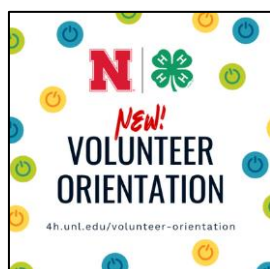
- enrolled in Dixon County 4-H for the 2024 program year by January 15, 2024. Club members and Independent members are encouraged to apply!
- have participated in the Dixon County 4-H program for at least 4 years prior.
- And if your 4-H Senior is entering the military, they are also eligible for this scholarship. Copies of enlistment papers are required.



January 22
 March 18
 May 20
 June 17
 September 16

Dixon County 4-H Council 2024 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are at 7:00 PM, at the Haskell Ag Lab. Zoom will be scheduled as needed. Each club, including Teen Leaders, are asked to have at least one representative at each meeting. Any 4-H member, including Independent members, and parents are welcome to any meeting.



NEW! VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Nebraska 4-H has launched a new volunteer orientation. This online training serves as an introduction to the 4-H Youth Development program in Nebraska and covers a few essential topics for volunteers. While the orientation is required for new volunteers and those going through the re-screening process, any interested individuals, including current and prospective volunteers, are welcome to complete the course. Learn more at <https://4h.unl.edu/volunteer-orientation>.

WINTER FEST

Winter Fun Workshop for Adults and Youth!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
9 AM TO NOON**

HASKELL AG LAB
57905 866 Road, Concord NE
GO.UNL.EDU/WINTERFEST23

Check here for any weather related announcements

Highlights:

- **Holiday Traditions**
- **Winter Tree Care**
- **Animals in Winter**
- **Wreath Workshop**
- **Santa**
- **Youth Activities**
- **Snacks for all**

\$25
Per Wreath
All other
activities
are free.

Pre-register for
wreath workshop by
November 21st by
calling 402-584-2261

We will be collecting winter
gloves, mittens, hats, scarves to donate to
a coat closet for those in need. All
donations appreciated.

N

EXTENSION

Haskell Agricultural Laboratory

All children
must have an
adult on site.

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



December 2023

57905 866 Road, Concord, NE 68728

Phone: (402) 584-2234

Email: dixon-county@unl.edu

Website: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dixon/4h/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNL-Extension-Dixon-County>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Fed Steer Challenge deadline	2 Haskell Winter Fest 9:00 AM-Noon Haskell Ag Lab, Concord
3	4 7:00 PM Extension Board	5	6 	7	8	9
10 	11	12 Haskell Coffee & Conversation 9:00 AM Career Chat Live	13	14	15 Hixon-Lied deadline Catch-a-Calf deadline	16
17	18	19	20	21 	Office Closed	
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
Haskell Ag Lab and Dixon County Extension Office Closed for Christmas Day and Holiday Break – December 22 through January 1						
31						

January 2024

57905 866 Road, Concord, NE 68728

Phone: (402) 584-2234

Email: dixon-county@unl.edu

Website: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dixon/4h/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNL-Extension-Dixon-County>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 *Haskell Closed* 	2 Haskell Office Hours Resume	3	4	5 State Achievement Applications Due Omaha Fashion Week Applications Due	6
7 	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 *Haskell Closed* Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18 	19	20
21 4-H Achievement & Swimming at the YMCA South Sioux City, 6-8 PM	22 4-H Council 7:00 PM	23 	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 4-H Club and Council End of the Year Reports Due	4-H Enrollment Deadline is February 1, 2024 Sign in at the new website: https://v2.4honline.com Instructions and Help located at https://extension.unl.edu/.../dixon/enrollment-volunteers/		





Application Deadline
****EXTENDED to December 31, 2023**

Application (2023-2024)

Name _____ Grade _____

Age _____ 4-H County _____ School _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Youth Cell Phone _____ Parent's Email _____

Parent's Cell Phone _____ Can we send text message reminders? ☐ Yes ☐ No

T-Shirt Size: ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large ☐ XX-Large

Please answer the following questions in no more than four typed pages.

1. 4-H Experiences
 - * Summarize your involvement in 4-H (local, county, state, and national levels). Do not list awards & ribbons
 - * What has been your most rewarding 4-H experience and why?
2. Leadership Experiences
 - * Summarize your leadership responsibilities and/or positions (in 4-H, school, your community and other activities)
 - * What has been your most fulfilling leadership experience and why?
3. Personal Statement
 - * What do you think you can contribute to the Dixon County 4-H Ambassador program?
 - * Why do you want to be a Dixon County 4-H Ambassador program?

☐ I have prepared this application personally. To the best of my knowledge, this information is truthful and accurate.

Signature of Applicant

Date



Job Description (2023-2024)

The primary goal of the Dixon County 4-H Ambassador Program is to build communication skills to be utilized in an advocacy role for Dixon County 4-H programs.

Applications are due to the Nebraska Extension Office in Dixon County by ~~October 13, 2023~~

****EXTENDED to December 31, 2023**

Eligibility:

- Youth 14-18 years of age (age on January 1st).
- Youth will serve a two-year term (can reapply for another term).
- Enrolled as a 4-H member (Dixon County).
- Must be an active member for at least two years prior to application.
- Complete this application by October 13, 2023

General Duties

- Serve as a positive role model to all youth.
- Represent 4-H to the public-develop an elevator speech about 4-H and its positive impact.
- Write an article about 4-H for the newspapers (National 4-H Week and Nebraska 4-H Month)
- Promote 4-H to potential donors and supporters of the 4-H program.
- Assist with 4-H events at the Dixon County Fair (pass out awards during shows and special events, Achievement Programs, and other county, regional, or state 4-H events as a 4-H Ambassador).
- Assist and/or teach at 4-H Workshops (summer, etc.)
- Assist with new member recruitment by visiting elementary classrooms as well as other community events (Missouri River Expo, Back to School event, etc.).
- Must attend and be on time to the scheduled dates (please contact us if you have a conflict).
- Wear a 4-H Ambassador shirt and nametag (this will be provided) to events.
- Attend a 4-H Ambassador training (TBA).

Questions, please contact Angela Abts (aabts2@unl.edu)