



January/February 2024

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****

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

Jan. 30 Club Year-End Treasurer Reports due

February is Nebraska 4-H Month

Feb. 1 4-H Online Enrollment Soft Deadline

~~Feb. 4 Rescheduled Achievement Celebration~~

Feb. 5 Extension Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, at Haskell

Feb. 10 Beef Weigh In, 10:00 AM, at Haskell farm

Feb. 12 Livestock Superintendent Meeting, 7:00 PM at HAL

Feb. 18 Jr Leader Soup Dinner & Raffle, 11-1, Dixon Hall

March 4 Deadline for 4-H Horse Stampede

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>

EXTENSION

2024 Dixon County Fair: July 6-10
(Static Entry Day – July 5)

REMINDER

4-H Club and Council Year-End Financial Reports
are due January 31, 2024

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dixon/member-club-resources/>



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

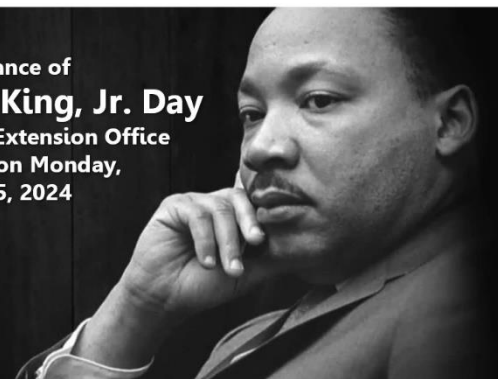
Haskell Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

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.

In observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
The Dixon County Extension Office
will be closed on Monday,
January 15, 2024



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



YOU'RE INVITED

4H Achievement Celebration

NORM WAITT YMCA

601 RIVERVIEW DRIVE
SSC, NE

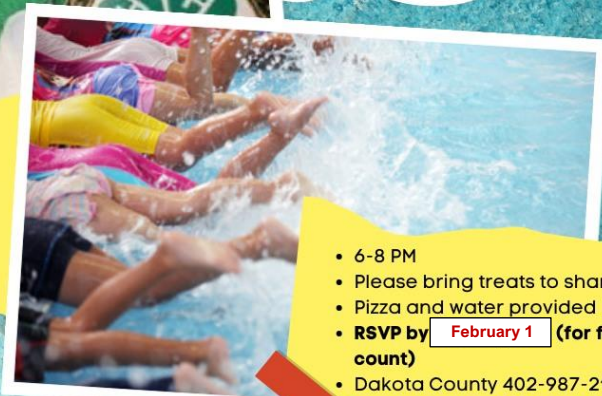
**Rescheduled
to February 4
2024**

INCLUDES :

- Awards
- Pizza
- Swimming
- Family Fun
- Gym will be open



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



- 6-8 PM
- Please bring treats to share
- Pizza and water provided
- **RSVP by February 1 (for food count)**
- Dakota County 402-987-2140
- Dixon County 402-584-2234



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 beforehand.

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.

Youth must enroll in Horticulture in 4-HOnline. 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.



Copyright: Thompson & Morgan



DATA DRIVEN

4 - H STATISTICS

What: Data Science and Statistics Field Day and Competition

Who: Teams of four high school students and one adult coach

When: Saturday March 16, 2024, 10 AM – 4 PM

Where: Dinsdale Learning Commons on UNL East Campus

Why: \$500 CASNR Scholarships for Top Scoring Team Members

Additional Information:

- Teams will compete in 5 unique games with a focus on probability, data science, and a little bit of luck.
- Additional rewards include Nebraska swag, time with industry professionals, and more!
- Team Members should be in 10th – 12th grades, with occasional exceptions allowed for exceptional 9th graders; and all members on a team should be from the same or neighboring counties.

BONUS: Registration costs for the first 20 teams is sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

More information will be available soon on the rules of each game.

Interested in Competing?

Contact Kimberly Stanke, UNL Extension Assistant Professor, at kstanke2@unl.edu to get more information as it becomes available! Coaches or teachers with less than a full team are encouraged to contact Kimberly to be connected with others in your area.



CASNR

4h.unl.edu/data-driven

4-H MONTH WEEKLY THEME DAYS!

4-H Spirit Day - Thursday, February 1, 2024

- Wear green, the 4-H emblem, or your favorite 4-H T-shirt!
- Share your 4-H Spirit on social media using #NE4HMonth, #iBelong, and #Opportunity4All

4-H Volunteer Appreciation Day - Thursday, February 8, 2024

- Send handwritten thank-you notes, treats, or goody bags to your club and project leaders.
- Shout out your club and project leaders on social media using #NE4HMonth.
- Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer for a [Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Recognition Award](#).

4-H Sponsor & Appreciation Day - Thursday, February 15, 2024

- Ask your local Extension office for the contact information for a 4-H donor and sponsor. Send them a handwritten thank-you note.

4-H Give Back to Your Community/Service Day - Thursday, February 22, 2024

- Coordinate your own community service project, such as picking up trash, holding a food drive, collecting items for a local shelter, or making care packages. For more inspiration, check out these [4-H civic engagement ideas](#). After the project is complete, be sure to [submit your community service project](#) for a chance to see it showcased by Nebraska 4-H.
- Contribute to other groups' community service projects.
- Volunteer your time with a local non-profit organization.

Leap Into 4-H Day - Tuesday, February 29, 2024

- [Enroll in 4-H](#) for 2024!



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 30, 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.



Summer 2024
CAMP
The power of
being  green



REGISTER TODAY
4H.UNL.EDU/CAMPS-REGISTER

CHADRON JUNE 1-5 JUNE 6-8	10-14 YEARS 8-10 YEARS
COZAD JUNE 16-20 JULY 1-3	10-14 YEARS 8-10 YEARS
BURWELL JULY 17-19 JULY 20-24	8-10 YEARS 10-14 YEARS



Soup Dinner & Raffle

Sponsored by the
Dixon County 4-H Junior Leaders

Sunday February 18th, 2024

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Dixon Community Center

Dixon, Nebraska

Serving Soup, Desserts, & Drinks



Free Will Donation

Junior Leaders are Selling Raffle Tickets Now & at the Door.

Drawing will be at 1pm (need not be present to win)

**** Prizes include....**

Electronics, bags of seed & application

AND MANY OTHER GREAT ITEMS!!

Proceeds go to College Scholarships

and/or Citizen Washington Focus Trip

Members: BrieAnn Mellick, Lane Fischer,

Tristan, Mackenzey & Hunter Connell, Lilly Pehrson,

Taven & Trecyn Ocampo, Faith Galvin, Katelyn & Claire Walsh

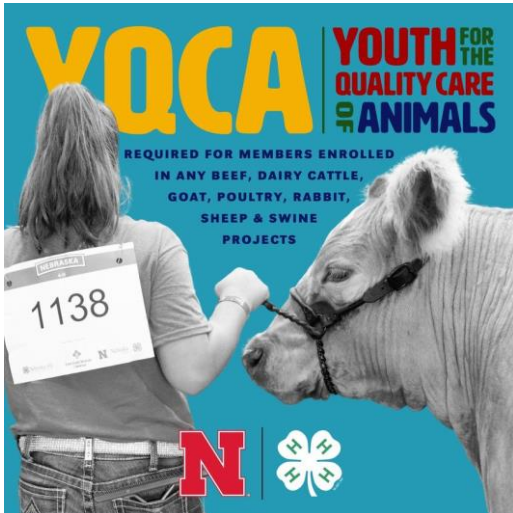
YQCA Certification

<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.

YQCA Training & Nebraska BQA Workshop - Guest Speaker UNL Volleyball Coach John Cook -

This event would be an awesome opportunity for youth to get their **YQCA training** done uniquely!! Details below for 4-H & FFA youth! ... & you get to hear from **Husker Volleyball coach John Cook!**

Ashland BQA Workshop to Feature John Cook as Guest Speaker. All Nebraska cattle producers and their families are invited to **Certified Angus Beef's Nebraska BQA Workshop on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at Round the Bend Steakhouse's "The Ball Room" in Ashland.**

This event won't be the "typical" BQA event.

An optional Youth Quality Care for Animals training will kick off at 10:00 a.m. YQCA is a requirement for all youth exhibiting beef, sheep, swine, goats, dairy, rabbits or poultry in Nebraska 4-H and FFA. Kids are encouraged to stay for the following BQA workshop.

A Certified Angus Beef® brand lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m., with the BQA sessions starting at 12:00 p.m. The event will conclude at 3:15 p.m. with guest speaker John Cook, University of Nebraska-Lincoln volleyball head coach.



Small Animal Shows and Clinic

UNL 2024 Chick Days is an annual educational event for small and back-yard poultry producers and youth to learn more about the poultry industry. The event is open to both youth (Ages 7-18) and adults (ages 19 and up). This year's event will be held from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM, on **March 16, 2024** at the Department of Animal Science, 3940 Fair St., Lincoln, NE. Printable registration: <https://animalscience.unl.edu/chick-days>



The **Lancaster County Extension 4-H Spring Rabbit Show** will be held on **Saturday, March 16**, 9:00 AM at Sandhills Global Event Center, 84th & Havelock – South Hall. Open to all youth ages 8–18, with a Clover Kids class for youth ages 5–7 - regardless of county! This is a great opportunity for youth to talk to other 4-H'ers about where to purchase a good rabbit for a 4-H project, and to learn and practice showmanship. Rabbit Quiz and Breed Identification contests are free for youth to enter! AND - the knowledge contests are open to adults for a minimal fee! More details can be found at: <https://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/stories/92465>



Companion Rabbit Science is a self-paced learning opportunity offering information about caring for rabbits. The online course is great for middle-school-aged youth but is open to all youth regardless of age who are looking to learn more about rabbits and the 4-H rabbit project. <https://4h.unl.edu/companion-rabbit-science>

Companion Cat Science is a self-paced learning opportunity offering information about caring for cats. The online course is great for middle-school-aged youth but is open to all regardless of age who are looking to learn more about cats and the 4-H cat project. Companion Cat Science is a great resource for anyone interested in caring for or learning about cats in 4-H whether they own one now or not! <https://4h.unl.edu/companion-cat-science>



The Nebraska 4-H Dog Achievement Program encourages youth to engage in a variety of companion animal opportunities, events, and contests. The program is designed to equip youth with a variety of skills and abilities and prepare them for success in the future. The Dog Achievement Program is open to enrolled 4-H members ages 8-18. <https://4h.unl.edu/dog-achievement-program>

8TH ANNUAL AGRONOMY YOUTH FIELD DAY
SAVE THE DATE!!
TUESDAY, JULY 9TH, 2024
NCTA, CURTIS, NE



OPEN STATEWIDE TO YOUTH AGES 9-18; PARENTS & ADULTS ARE WELCOME TOO. FREE EVENT! REGISTRATION LINK COMING SOON
YOUTH WILL LEARN ABOUT CAREERS IN PRECISION AG, AGRONOMY, WEED SCIENCE & IRRIGATION THROUGH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FROM NEBRASKA EXTENSION AND NCTA CROPPING & WATER SYSTEMS EDUCATORS & OTHER CROP SCIENTISTS



SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2024
NCTA, CURTIS, NE

Animal Science Discover Day is a hands-on educational program designed to engage youth in Animal Science topics and Agricultural Careers.

Registration information will be available after February 1st.

ANIMAL SCIENCE DISCOVERY DAYS



INNOVATIVE YOUTH CORN CHALLENGE

- Can you improve corn yields to meet the growing global demand?
- Open to 4-H & FFA members
- Over \$2,000 in cash prizes awarded!
- Network with agronomic professionals!
- Access to valuable corn resource materials!

Deadline to enter the contest: March 15th
Download entry forms at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth>

start the innovation

For more info, call 402-759-3712.

Sponsored by:



Large Animal Shows and Clinics

Registration for the **2024 Nebraska 4-H Farrowed and Owned Swine Cohort** is now open until February 1st, 2024. Please see <https://4h.unl.edu/farrowed-owned> for all of the details.



This year's **Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic Livestock Judging Contest** will be held in Kearney on Saturday, Feb. 17th with the entry deadline being Feb. 5th. BEEF only contest. Open to 4H & FFA Youth, Plus College Teams. Over \$5,000 in awards will be presented. \$1,000 UNL Animal Science Scholarship to the Top Senior Youth. All details and entry information can be found using the following link <https://nebraskaclassic.org/winter.../judging-contest.php>.

The 4-H Horse Stampede, held annually on the University of Nebraska—Lincoln East Campus, provides 4-H members an opportunity to showcase and demonstrate their equine knowledge through a variety of 4-H horse contests that do not require live horses, including public speaking, demonstrations, quiz bowl, art and photography contests. This year's event will be held Saturday, March 23, 2024. There is a \$10 entry fee per participant and a \$10 office fee per exhibitor. Event shirts are also available for pre-order. All orders, fees, and entry forms must be submitted online by March 4, 2024. <https://4h.unl.edu/horse-stampede>



The State 4-H Horse Expo is an opportunity for 4-H members to demonstrate their skills and knowledge of horses at state-level shows and contests. The Expo is held annually and hosts the State 4-H Horse Show, State 4-H Hippology Contest, and State 4-H Horse Judging Contest. Will be held July 13-17, 2024, in Grand Island. <https://4h.unl.edu/horse-expo>

The Nebraska Equine Webinar Series is held every second Monday of every month. Topics include: nutrition, disease, biosecurity, parasites, equipment, rulebook, judging, vet care, and confirmation. These webinars will be a great place for 4-H leaders/parents and senior youth to learn about many different areas. Past webinars: <https://4h.unl.edu/horse/webinar-series>



The Nebraska 4-H Livestock Achievement Program is designed to promote all educational aspects of 4-H livestock projects, including selection, production, leadership, and exhibition, by recognizing youth striving to improve their livestock project knowledge and leadership. <https://4h.unl.edu/livestock-achievement>

The 2024 Hippology Academy kicks off on February 17. Topics for this year include toxic plants of the northeast, horse evaluation, feeding myths, soil testing and usage, identifying feeds, and fencing. Twice weekly lectures. <https://go.unl.edu/e08z>



Virtual Judging Camp is an online judging camp for anyone thinking about giving horse judging a try! Includes at-home assignments, reasons critique, 4 interactive virtual meetings, quizzes, and certificate of completion! Experts from UNL, Perdue Univ, Oklahoma State Univ, and Middle Tennessee Univ. Cost is \$50. Link to register: <https://go.unl.edu/74wx>

4-H Leader and Volunteer Training

If you're a new volunteer for 2024, you must be screened for this year. It is an online process, which includes background checks. There is a \$5.00 fee to paid online during the screening process. Information can be found here: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dixon/enrollment-volunteers/>

And HEADS UP!

All counties in Nebraska, are in a 5-year rotation for when ALL volunteers are screened. 2025 is Dixon County's next turn, where ALL volunteers will repeat the process. This includes the volunteers who completed the screening in 2024. Our volunteers will receive a letter when it is time to complete the screening.



4-H Volunteers – You May Be Contacted for the 4-H Volunteer Impact Study! We are excited to share that Nebraska will be participating in the 4-H Volunteer Impact Study of volunteers in the North Central Region. A random sample of volunteers of 1000 volunteers from each state will be surveyed. You may be picked!!! If you are, please respond. Your comments will be used to quantify the personal, organizational and public impacts of volunteers involved with 4-H Youth Development Programs in our twelve-state region.

Eat Healthy, Be Active- Teaching Nutrition and Physical Activities to Young Children

This course will increase participants' awareness of the problem of obesity in early childhood, including statistics about obesity rates and causes and risk factors that contribute to childhood obesity.

**February 5, 2024
7:00-8:00 P.M. CST**

REGISTER NOW

To register, go to: <https://fitandhealthykids.unl.edu>
Questions? email fhk@unl.edu

Thank you to our sponsor **Lakeshore**



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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A Multicooker Class

FEBRUARY 10TH, 2024 9:30 - 11:30 AM

**HASKELL AG LAB
57905 866 ROAD
CONCORD, NE 68728**

COST: \$10 PER PERSON

EXPLORE YOUR MULTICOOKER'S POTENTIAL:
CREATE NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR YOUR FAMILY (CHILDREN 8 YEARS AND OLDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT)

Questions Contact: Julie Boyle
julie.boyle@unl.edu or 402-987-2140

To register call Mary Jarvi at the Haskell Ag Lab at
402-584-2261

Registration deadline of February 2nd



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2024 LAND APPLICATION TRAINING

APPLYING MANURE MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS ON-FARM

Sessions will be held in-person and will include an update on regulations and discussion on how to best use manure on your operation. All-day sessions will meet requirements for Land Application Training. Afternoon sessions will meet needs for Recertification.

IMPORTANT NOTES!

- Initial land application training certification requires participation in full event (6-6.5 hours).
- Recertification training requires participation in the 2.5 hour session. Alternatively, you may attend the full event.
- **Anyone is welcome.** Crop farmers and livestock producers will learn useful, applied information.
- More information is available at: water.unl.edu/lat



PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Go to water.unl.edu/lat or scan the QR code above

\$75 per operation requiring certification*

**Multiple people may attend from an operation, but all must be registered.*

\$25 per person with no expectation of certification**

***All day only*

DATES AND LOCATIONS



Date	Location
February 12	Columbus
February 13	Geneva
February 19	Scottsbluff
February 20	Lexington
February 29	Norfolk
March 5	West Point
March 6	Ord

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Leslie Johnson
Animal Manure Mgt. Educator
402-584-3818
leslie.johnson@unl.edu

**SAT FEB. 24
8AM 2024**

OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

**4 HRS
\$15**

VIRTUAL CHILDCARE CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED

FHK@UNL.EDU

fitandhealthykids.unl.edu/early-childhood-conference

Dixon County 4-H Council 2024 Meeting Schedule

January 22 March 25
May 20 June 17
September 16



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.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR RURAL FAMILIES

A MULTI-STATE/4-PART IN-PERSON WORKSHOP SERIES
March 5 | March 7 | March 12 | March 14 5:30-8:30 p.m. ET

Haskell Ag Lab

57905 866 Rd

Concord, NE 68728

PREVENTION
PRACTICES

EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

FIRE
PROTECTION

FIRST
AID

HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

\$50 | Register by Feb. 20 at wia.unl.edu/prep



USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This project is supported by a grant from NCRCD through funding from USDA NIFA Award #2022-51150-38141.
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NEBRASKA WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

KEARNEY,
NEBRASKA

HOLIDAY INN
CONVENTION
CENTER



2024

FEBRUARY 22-23

<https://wia.unl.edu/conference>

#NEWIA2024



LAMBING & KIDDING CONFERENCE

SATURDAY - 03.16.2024

Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers Association
& Nebraska Extension

Call 308.532.2683 or email randy.saner@unl.edu
to pre-register by March 1st

Registration: \$20 NSGPA Members- 4-H & FFA Members
\$30 Non-Association Members

Location: NCTA Livestock Training Center, Curtis, NE

9:30 am. Morning Tours

-Dan Stehlik, Lambing Facility Tour
-Hair Sheep Tour (TBD)

11:00 am. Llama Care/Management

-David Baltzell, DMV

Noon Meal

Abbey Darheim (Abbey D. Photography), Photography Small Ruminants

1:00 pm. Judging

-Kelly Bruns, Judging Wool Sheep
-Judging Goats

-Judging Hair Sheep

2:30 pm. Fancha Training

-Randy Saner

3:00 pm. Feeder Lamb Nutrition

-Rob Zelinsky, Hubbard Feeds

4:00 pm. Wrap up-Questions-Discussion-Door Prizes



Monday, January 29 @ 7pm

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
AND NATURAL RESOURCES!
ZOOM IN TO ASK
QUESTIONS AND HEAR
ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES.



Parents or Students who are
interested, please check out this
link: <https://go.unl.edu/vb2s>



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.

Planning is in full swing for the **2024 Nebraska State Fair**. While the complete and detailed schedule is a work in progress, a tentative schedule overview was shared to help exhibitors plan ahead. Find it here: <https://www.statefair.org/ag.../livestock-exhibitors/> under the **2024 Livestock Schedule** section.

The 4-H State Dog Show will be held on **Saturday, August 24, 2024**, at the Heartland Event Center, Grand Island. More info to come! <https://4h.unl.edu/state-fair-dog-exhibitor>



2024 Nebraska State Fair 4-H Livestock

All livestock in contention to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair will be required to submit a DNA nomination. This includes all 4-H and FFA breeding livestock, market livestock, and feeder calves. Any DNA nomination submitted through Show Stock Manager will also be eligible for exhibition at the Aksarben Stock Show. DNA nominations will be \$7.00 per animal. All animals will automatically be eligible for both breeding and market—no additional fees or double payments will be required.



**STATE FAIR
LIVESTOCK
NOMINATIONS
DUE JUNE 15**

DNA nominations for the Nebraska State Fair are due on June 15, 2024.

Any 4-H member planning to exhibit livestock at the [Nebraska State Fair](https://www.statefair.org/) must complete the appropriate livestock identification requirements for each potential animal. This process nominates the animals for the 4-H livestock shows at the Nebraska State Fair and provides evidence that the animals are part of the youth's livestock projects. The process makes an individual animal eligible for entry at the Nebraska State Fair.

Please note that completing the state identification requirements does not automatically enter the animal or exhibitor for the Nebraska State Fair. The exhibitor must still complete the separate online State Fair entry process. Animals that are not identified and nominated using the appropriate state requirements by the deadlines below will not be eligible to be entered or shown at the Nebraska State Fair.

<https://4h.unl.edu/state-fair-livestock-id>

Show Stock Manager Online Nomination Website (<https://showstockmgr.com/>)

[State Fair Animal Identification & Nomination Handout \(2024\)](#) (available as a pdf)

Frequently Asked Questions (2024) (<https://4h.unl.edu/state-fair-livestock-identification-nomination-faq>)

Dairy Affidavit (2024) (<https://4h.unl.edu/state-fair-livestock-id>)

Nebraska State Fair Entry Website (<https://www.statefair.org/>)



Instruction Documents (each available as a pdf)

[Step-by-Step Online Nomination Instructions \(2024\)](#)

[Cattle Hair Sample Collection Instructions](#)




[Sheep & Goat Hair Sample Collection Instructions](#)

[Swine Hair Sample Collection Instructions](#)

These sites can also be accessed through the Dixon County Animal Resources website:

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 *Haskell Closed* <i>Happy New Year</i>	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 Postponed	22 4-H Council 7:00 PM	23 Haskell Coffee & Conversation 9:00 AM	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/		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	February 1.....4-H Spirit Day February 8.....4-H Volunteer Appreciation Day February 15.....4-H Supporter Appreciation Day February 22.....Give Back Day February 29.....Leap Into 4-H – Enroll in 4-H			1 Soft Deadline to enroll in 4-H v2.4honline.com Deadline for Farrowed Owned Swine Cohort	2 Deadline to register for Multicooker Class	3
4 Rescheduled 4-H Achievement & Swimming at the YMCA South Sioux City, 6-8 PM	5 Deadline for Nebr. Cattlemen's Classic Judging Contest	6 6:30 PM – Extension Board	7	8	9	10 Multicooker Class 9:30-11:30 Beef Weigh-in, 10:00 AM-Noon, Haskell Farm
11	12	13 Haskell Coffee & Conversation 9:00 AM	14  Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18 Jr Leader Soup Dinner 11 AM -1 PM, Dixon Hall	19	20	21 Omaha Fashion Week's Student Night	22	23	24 YQCA, BOA, & Coach John Cook, Ashland
25	26	27	28	29	Let's celebrate NEBRASKA 4-H MONTH	



2024 DIXON COUNTY 4-H CALENDAR



Dates and Times are subject to change

January						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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June						
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(**Haskell Ag Lab = Haskell or HAL**)	
Jan. 1	New Year's Day (Haskell Closed)
Jan. 2	Business Hours Resume at Haskell
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Haskell Closed)
Jan. 21	4-H Achievement Party, 6:00-8:00 PM
Jan. 22	4-H Council, 7:00 PM at HAL
Jan. 30	Club Year-End Treasurer Reports Due
** February is Nebraska 4-H Month **	
Feb. 1	4HOnline 2.0 Enrollment First Deadline
Feb. 4	Rescheduled 4-H Achievement Party, 6:00-8:00 PM Norm Wait YMCA, South Sioux City
Feb. 5	Extension Board Meeting, 6:00 PM at HAL
Feb. 10	Beef Weigh-In, 10:00 AM to Noon
Feb. 12	Livestock Superintendent Meeting, 7:00 PM at HAL
March 4	Deadline for 4-H Horse Stampede
March 10	Daylight Saving Time Begins – Spring Forward
March 21	Deadline for All-Contest Day Entries
March 25	4-H Council, 7:00 PM at Haskell
March 23	4-H Horse Stampede, UNL East Campus
March 31	Easter
April 1	Extension Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at HAL
April 1	All-Contest Day **Location TBD 6:30 PM Music Contest, Speaking & Presentation Contests 7:00 PM Favorite Foods Revue
April 21-27	National Volunteer Week
April 27	Rocket Workshop & Launch
May 20	4-H Council, 7:00 PM at Haskell
May 27	Memorial Day (Haskell Closed)
May 29	County and State 4-H Horse Deadlines • Horse ID Sheets and Horse Advancement Levels
June 3	Extension Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at HAL
June 15	4-H Deadline Day (Late Fee Schedule Begins) • Final 4-HOnline 2.0 Enrollment Deadline (www.v2.4HOnline.com) • YQCA (certification completed, copies submitted to the Ext. Office) • DNA envelopes due to the Ext Office, entered in Show Stock Manager • Livestock Affidavits (tag numbers must match pre-fair entry forms) • Bucket Calf & Return Bucket Calf Record Books • Vaccination papers for Cats and Dogs due • Clothing/Fashion Revue Paperwork and Narrations • Pre-Fair Entry Forms (Horticulture entry forms Due July 2)
June 17	4-H Council, 7:00 PM at HAL
June 18	State 4-H Speaking Contest
June 20-21	PASE – Premier Animal Science Event
June 21	Last Day to Accept Late 4-H Fair Entries & Late Fees
June 29	Fashion Revue, 8:30 AM, Recorded *Open to the Public 4-H Pre-Fair Judging (Clothing & Textiles, Photography) 10:00 AM
June 27	Fairgrounds Clean Up Night and Packet Pickup at 6:30 PM
July 2	Deadline for 4-H Horticulture Entry Forms, 4:30 PM
July 2	4-H Dog, Cat, & Pets Judging (no Open Class) at location TBD
July 4	Independence Day (Haskell Closed)
July 5	4-H Static Judging, Ag Hall on fairgrounds
JULY 6-10	DIXON COUNTY FAIR
July 13-17	State 4-H Horse Expo, Fonner Park
Aug. 12	Extension Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at HAL
Aug. 20	State Fair Static Project Drop off to HAL by Noon
Aug. 23-Sept. 2	NEBRASKA STATE FAIR
Sept. 2	Labor Day (Haskell Closed)
Sept. 16	4-H Council, 7:00 PM at HAL
Oct. 6-12	National 4-H Week
Oct. 7	Extension Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at HAL
Nov. 3	Daylight Saving Time Ends – Fall Back
Nov. 18	Deadline for Achievement Applications & Diamond Clover Forms
Nov. 20	4-H Council ADVISORY MEETING, 7:00 PM at HAL
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Day (Haskell Closed)
Nov. 29	Haskell Closed
Dec. 2	Extension Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at HAL
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	UNL Holiday Closedown (Haskell Closed)

July						
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December						
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2024 4-H State Fair Animal Nomination/Identification Requirements

Project Area	Nomination Requirements	Due Date	Show Entry Deadline
Market Beef	EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Registered Breeding Beef	Tattoo, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Commercial Breeding Beef	Tattoo OR EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Feeder Calf	EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Market Swine	EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Breeding Swine	EID Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Market Sheep	Scrapie Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Breeding Sheep	Scrapie Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Market Goats	Scrapie Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Breeding Goats	Scrapie Tag, DNA Envelope & animal information submitted online via Show Stock Manager database.	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Dairy Cattle	ID Sheet Drawing	June 15	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Rabbits & Poultry	No nomination required. Rabbits will be required to have an ear tattoo by the show entry deadline.	-----	August 10 8:00 PM CST
Horse	Horse Identification Certification	June 1	June 1 11:59 PM CST

4-H Bucket Calf and Dairy Goat projects do not have a class option at the Nebraska State Fair.

Review individual fairbooks for registered animal requirements as there may be additional items required to be exhibited in a breed class at State Fair, but not to be nominated.

Family Responsibilities:

1. Exhibitors will be required to enroll in 4-H by the county deadline in 4H Online.
2. Exhibitors will review their species fairbooks.
3. Exhibitors showing market and/or breeding beef, feeder calves, market and/or breeding swine, market and/or breeding sheep or market and/or breeding goats at State Fair must have a signed and sealed official DNA envelope with hair samples for DNA verification. **Every animal nomination (this includes all breeding animals and feeder calves) will require a DNA submission.** DNA must be turned into their county office and have completed the online nomination with payment in *Show Stock Manager* by June 15. Any animal carrying an 840 EID tag will require the exhibitor to obtain a Premises ID. Contact the local Extension Office for details. (It is recommended that you make a copy or a photo image of the completed envelope you turn into your county.)
4. Exhibitors will be required to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) for the enrolled livestock projects by the August 10.
5. Exhibitors will confirm that the ear tattoo and/or identification tag matches the animal nomination submitted by June 15 for confirmation of legibility and/or accuracy.
6. Exhibitors will notify the County Extension Staff of any retags that may occur up to time of check-in at the State Fair.
7. Exhibitors will select which animal nominations they have chosen to show at State Fair on the State Fair entry website by August 10. All nominated and validated animals will be automatically listed as a choice option for entry registration.
8. Exhibitors will be required to bring the breed registration association paperwork to check-in at State Fair for animals wanting to show in a breed class. **The registration papers must show the exhibitor's name or a co-owner who is an immediate member of the exhibitor's family and is listed with the online nomination in Show Stock Manager.**

County Staff Responsibilities:

1. Submit an 840 EID tag order for beef and swine animal projects.
2. Schedule and publish weigh-in and/or tagging dates if offered in your county.
3. Request, distribute and collect DNA collectors for families. 840 EID tags should not be distributed without the premise ID being recorded in 4H Online. It is optional but recommended to record on the DNA envelope.
4. Inform families of the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training options available to them (in person and online).
5. Collect all beef, swine, lamb, and goat DNA envelopes by June 15. Families will submit payment online in *Show Stock Manager*. Copy all DNA envelopes for your county records and mail all completed DNA envelopes to the Aksarben Stock Show office by **June 21**.
6. Remind families to confirm that the ear tattoo and/or identification tag matches the animal nomination submitted by June 15 for confirmation of legibility and/or accuracy.
7. Collect Premises ID numbers from exhibitors and input those into 4H Online.
8. Review and validate all online livestock nominations in *Show Stock Manager* for each exhibitor by **July 1**.
9. Input nomination edits in to Show Stock Manager for your families. Edits will be corrected by the Show Coordinator. For retags, directly notify Brandy Schulze bschulze@unl.edu and/or input the change in *Show Stock Manager*.
10. Inform families that all nominations have been validated and are available for entry at the Nebraska State Fair entry website <https://www.statefair.org/> when the system is open.

Additional Information

- County offices can accept paper ID sheets for their own record keeping but these **will not be accepted as a form of identification for State Fair.** Each exhibitor may nominate a total, between 4-H and FFA, as follows: Market Beef (20), Market Lambs (20), Market Swine (40), and Market Goats (20).
- There are entry limits for each of the individual species. Exhibitors cannot exhibit more than the following for each species to State Fair: Beef (5), Swine (6), Sheep (4), Goat (4), Poultry (6), Rabbit (6).