



February 2016

### Hello Livestock Families;

Congratulations to everyone for the great increase we have had over the past several years in our Dixon County Fair Livestock Shows. That is good news. However, with the increase in numbers we need to have more involvement with the families in revising and improving the classes in the fairbook. The goal is to have a great show with a least 3 animals in every class.

The 4H program is primarily an educational program and not a competition program. With that being said, we still give out ribbons and trophies. We would like to bring our classes more in line with the state guidelines, although we can have some special local classes.

We need to have your feedback in the revisions. We would like each species to have a committee composed of several people who would advise and help make these changes. If you do not get involved, other, less informed people (like Keith) who have less interest in your program will make the decisions. We can make the livestock program even better than it is.

We will be having a committee organizational meeting on livestock /fairbook/class revision on **February 15 at 6:30 pm** before the 4-H Council meeting.

“With your help, we can make the livestock program even better than it is.”

## Beef Weigh In



Due to the fact there has been conflicts on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> for weigh in we will be having it on **Friday, February 5, 2016 and Saturday, February 6** at 10 am to 12 noon at the Haskell Ag Lab farm. We would like to know which day you plan on weighing in your beef. Remember that if the 4-Hers or parents cannot attend they will need to come into the office and sign all the forms. If you have any questions please call the Extension Office.

### MARKET BEEF

- ❖ All 4-H Market Beef must be weighed and tagged to be eligible for the County Fair Rate-of-Gain Contest. See above on the weigh in date.
- ❖ DNA samples must be collected on animals exhibited at Ak-Sar-Ben and State Fair. **New for 2016: In addition, beef must be tagged with an EID tag. Tags will be available at weigh in.**
- ❖ As in previous years, the State Fair is requiring a negative BVD test be stated on the certificate of Inspection.
- ❖ All animals weighed and tagged are eligible for the Norfolk Beef Expo Show and Sale.
- ❖ The charge for each DNA sample is \$6.00, ear tags are \$1.00 each and all must be paid for at weigh-in.
- ❖ Please be prepared to complete all paperwork. You will need to know which animals are home raised, county raised, and those returning from the 2015 County Fair.

## 2016 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

### Ak-Sar-Ben and State Fair

No online or paper ownership affidavits will be required.

**Market Animals** (beef, swine, lamb, meat goat, & feeder calves) will be required to have an Electronic ID (EID) tag and a DNA sample. The DNA envelope will serve as the ID. Fee: 6.00/DNA sample

**Each Breeding Animal** will need a Breeding Nomination Card (BNC) submitted. Registered animals also need a copy of the registration paper. Fee: \$2.00/nomination

**Dairy and Horse**—no change from previous years

**Poultry & Rabbit**—requirements are being developed

### County Fair

Paper copies of ID affidavits will be required (no change from previous years). Animals nominated for Ak-Sar-Ben and State Fair must be on the County ID affidavit to be eligible for the County Fair.

Enclosed is a document further explaining ID requirements. Poultry and Rabbit requirements are being developed.

### POULTRY



As of January 1, 2016, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) has officially lifted the ban on poultry shows, fairs, and exhibitions that was put in place to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza (HPAI) last year.

The NDA is cautiously optimistic that additional cases of HPAI will not occur in Nebraska in 2016, however if HPAI does return to our state, restrictions may need to be enacted to prevent the spread of the virus.



### DOG

The Companion Animal Challenge is Mar. 12 at the UNL Animal Science Building, Lincoln. It provides youth a chance to participate in a variety of contests that do not require animals, but allow youth to learn more about their dog or other companion animals. The Art, Photography, Presentation, Dog Skill-A-Thon, and Dog Quiz Bowl contests will be held. Reg. due Feb. 12. Check out <http://go.unl.edu/pi0q> for more information.

\* Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic Livestock Judging Contest is scheduled for February 20 in Kearney. Contact Brad Bennet at [bbennett8@unl.edu](mailto:bbennett8@unl.edu) for information. Pre-registration due by Feb. 5.



### Attention Horse Exhibitors

The 4-H Horse Stampede is Mar. 12 at the UNL Animal Science Building, Lincoln. The Art, Photography, Public Speaking, Presentation, and Horse Bowl contests will be held. Reg. due Feb. 12. Go to <http://go.unl.edu/t4tz> for more information.

\*Due Date for Horse ID's, District and State Horse Show Entries, and Horse Level Testing to be complete for District and State Horse Show participation is May 13.

Any 4-Her over 10 years old needs to take the level one horse testing to show at the county fair horse show.

\*2016 District Horse Show Dates and Locations

June 13—Kearney  
June 14—Chadron  
June 15—McCook  
June 16—Leigh  
June 17—Bloomfield  
June 21—Lincoln

## Enrollment Reminder



4-H Enrollments for members and leaders are DUE online by February 1, 2016. This also includes independent members. All instructions are on the online website at <https://ne.4honline.com>. Call the office if you need help or have questions.

## Insurance Reminder

Please remember that each club is to turn in their money for the insurance to cover all 4-H members and leaders for the upcoming year. The cost is \$1 for 4-H members and leaders who are not in the horse project and \$2 for all horse members and leaders. This should be in the Extension office by February 1, 2015.

## Dixon and Dakota Achievement and Kick Off Program.

What a great day and turnout for the Achievement and Kick Off program. There was 65 4-Hers, parents and friends who had fun bowling and roller skating at the Wakefield Bowl on Sunday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Snacks and finger food was brought by clubs and families. A big Thank You!! To the 4-H Councils for paying for all 4-Hers to bowl and skate. They also furnished the drinks.

All **Clover kids** in Dixon County received a pin.

**Volunteers** who filled out the screening form received a pin from the State 4-H Office.

**Club of Excellence** stickers went to Willis Feeders, New Generation and Pop's Partners.

**Leader Pins:** Linda Burcham got her 5 year leader pin and Candice Hansen got her 10 year leader pin.

**Diamond Clover Awards** went to Kolton Fischer, Amethyst; Miles Forsberg and Mitchell Fischer, Aquamarine; Makayla Forsberg, Ruby; and Mason Forsberg, Sapphire pins.

**County Awards** were awarded to Jr Animal Science-Madison Borg; Jr Healthy Lifestyles-Mitchell Fischer; Jr Consumer & Family Science- Makayla Forsberg; and Communication & Expression- Mitchell Fischer.

**Most Completed projects** award went to Steven Lieber, Willis Feeders

**Herdmanship** award went to Pop's Partners 4-H Club.

## Changes in Pre Fair Contests

One critical skill gained from 4-H is communication. This skill is used daily in our lives. The Dixon County 4-H program has a great opportunity for all 4-Hers to do this year. Consider joining us for the Speech and Presentation Contests. Another opportunity to try is the Favorite Foods Show (youth prepare their favorite food and design a table setting). Don't forget the Music Contest where 4-Hers share their artistic talents with music and dance. This year we are going to combine two contests together to be held on two evenings before the crazy summer months begin. For more information on how to prepare for these experiences, please contact the office. A great way to practice your public speaking skills is to present at your club meetings.

**Speech & Music Contest on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. at the Evangelical Free Church, Concord**

**Presentation & Favorite Foods Contest Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. Haskell Ag Lab**



## SHOOTING SPORTS INVITATIONAL

The Wayne County Sharp Shooters 4-H Club is hosting a shoot on Jan. 30-31 at the Carroll Auditorium. Competitions include: BB Gun- 4 position, Jr 3 Position (3P) Sporter Air Rifle, Jr

Precision Air Rifle, Open (Adults included) 3 Position (3P) Sporter Air Rifle and Open Precision Air Rifle. Doors open 1 hour prior to the first relay. Contact Darin Greunke at 402.286.4895 or [dgshoots4fun@hotmail.com](mailto:dgshoots4fun@hotmail.com) for more information.

## Shooting Sports Leader Certification Trainings

Are scheduled for February 13-14 in Lincoln and April 16- 17 in Arlington. Check out [4h.unl.edu/shootingsportsinstructor](http://4h.unl.edu/shootingsportsinstructor) for registration information.

## THE NEBRASKA STATE 4-H BB GUN & AIR RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Will be held at the Wayne Community Activity Center April 2-3. Volunteers are needed. Contact Darin Greunke at 402.286.4895 or [dgshoots4fun@hotmail.com](mailto:dgshoots4fun@hotmail.com) for more information. Stop in and check out the competition.

### Innovative Youth Corn Challenge



## INNOVATIVE YOUTH CORN CHALLENGE

Nebraska Extension and the Nebraska Corn Board are offering the fifth Innovative Youth Corn Challenge contest. This contest, open to 4-H members (age 10 & older as of Dec. 31) or FFA members (in-school members), guides participants through all aspects of corn production, as well as agricultural careers related to corn production. As a team, youth will be challenged to implement a production practice different than normal to determine if they increased their yield. Cash prizes and plaques will be given to the first, second, and third place teams. First place will receive \$1,000, second place will receive \$500, and third place will receive \$250. Sustainability, crop scouting and “extra mile” awards will also be given, each worth \$200. To participate in 2016, youth must complete and return an entry form by March 15, 2016, to the Fillmore County Extension Office in Geneva, NE. Forms can be downloaded later this month from <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/activities>.

## 4-H Locker/Desk Signs Hello Dixon County 4-Hers.

Nebraska 4-H Month is coming in February. Here is a great opportunity to start recruiting new members to the 4-H program. Each 4-H member will be receiving a 4-H card with their name on it in the mail. Please tape these to your classroom desk or locker to show your support for the 4-H program. We need your help to spread the word about the benefits and opportunities for youth in your community. We are all challenged to “Grow Nebraska 4-H”. Here are some additional ways to celebrate Nebraska 4-H Month.

- ✘ “Tell a friend about 4-H.” Encourage them to join you at your next club meeting to learn more about the program.
- ✘ Make a poster about 4-H or your club to be placed in your community and/or school. Contact the Extension Office for poster ideas.
- ✘ Wear 4-H swag (t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.) to school, club meetings, and out in the community. There are several products available from the National 4-H Mall at [www.4-hmall.org](http://www.4-hmall.org).
- ✘ Send a thank you to 4-H sponsors for the financial support of the program. This would include trophy sponsors, fundraiser donations, etc.
- ✘ Send a thank you to your club leader and/or project leader thanking them for their time and commitment to the 4-H program.
- ✘ Keep the local media informed about upcoming club meetings, special events, fundraisers, etc. throughout the year.
- ✘ Complete a community service learning project. Share your story.

**Don't forget about 4-H Saturday and Clover Kid Saturday a flyer is included in this newsletter. We had 11 for Photo Fun with Letters and 7 Clover Kids attend the workshops on January 23. Thanks to all who attended**

## Scholarship Information

- The Monsanto Company offers America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders, a \$1500 college scholarship for students pursuing degrees in agriculture-related fields. Visit <http://GrowAgLeaders.com> and <http://FFA.org/scholarships> for more information. You do not have to be a FFA member to apply. Applications are due by February 1.
- Scholarships are available for 4-Hers planning to attend the University of Nebraska. Applications are accepted until March 4. Contact the Extension Office.
- Choose the *Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards (NACEB)* link for information about a \$1000 scholarship to UNL for an incoming freshmen or transfer student. Applications are accepted until March 15. Flyer is in this newsletter.
- Seniors who received a 27 or higher on their ACT and are interested in a major at CASNR (College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, contact the Extension Office to learn more about a scholarship opportunity.

### Dixon Council Scholarship

4-H camp and event scholarships are available again this year. Be sure and apply! All scholarships are reimbursable upon return from the event. Written proof of attendance must be submitted to the 4-H Council within two weeks following the event/camp. A scholarship form is included in this newsletter. 4-H Council scholarship applications are due into the extension office by **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. The form is on the Dixon County website on the 4-H page.

## GOVERNOR'S AGRICULTURAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The awards are sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) and recognize 4-H clubs for the work of the individuals in the club and the community service work of the entire club. Recognition is in the form of \$500 checks issued to the club's treasury to be used as described in the award application form completed by the club.

Applications are available on-line at <http://ne4hfoundation.org/recognition/>. Any club that hasn't received a Governor's Agricultural Excellence Award for the past two consecutive years is eligible to apply. Applications are only accepted by email and are due by March 4.

## SPECIAL GARDEN PROJECT



This year's special garden project is the Jazzy Mix Zinnia. 4-Hers enrolled in the project will receive a packet of seeds; a newsletter about planting & growing zinnias; and are eligible to exhibit at the County and State Fair. Contact the Extension Office by April 1 or enroll in the Special Garden Project in 4HOnline if you would like to participate.

### Check out what is included in this newsletter!

4-H Yearly Calendar  
NACEB Scholarship Flyer  
Teens as Teachers Flyer  
Junior Leader Soup Dinner & Raffle Flyer  
4-H Saturday Flyer  
Clover Kid Saturday Flyer  
Animal ID Information

## Nebraska Teen Facilitator for the Honeybee Challenge

Congrats to Carin Melick! She was selected to be part of the Nebraska Ag Innovators Challenge (Honeybees) as a Teen Facilitator. She will receive a small grant for supplies to complete her challenge. Carin will be attending a training on March 12<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln and will be working on her action plan. Be on the lookout for her challenge project! Congrats!



## DID YOU KNOW?

Admissions Requirements  
*What type of student are you?*

Go to: <http://go.unl.edu/g9m0>  
and click on the category  
that best describes you.

We want to be sure that you  
have taken the classes needed  
in high school so you are ready  
for higher education.

## HAPPY VALENTINE DAY



*Keith Jarvi*

*Angela Abts*

*Sarah Paulos*

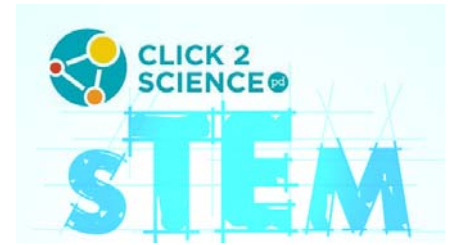
## DIXON COUNTY FAIR DATES ARE:

**PRE FAIR JUDGING**      **JULY 23 , 2016**

**ENTRY DAY**              **JULY 30, 2016**

**DIXON COUNTY FAIR**      **JULY 31-AUGUST 3, 2016**

# Teens as Teachers



**Click2Science:**

**Making Connections to STEM Careers**

**Cedar, Dixon, and Wayne County Teens (ages 13-18) are encouraged to take part in a Click2Science Teens as Teachers 4-H Program**

In this program teens will:

1. Identify the options youth have as a part of the future STEM workforce.
2. Connect real-world STEM careers to activities they are facilitating.
3. Create lessons that teach Clover Kids about STEM careers.
4. Develop friendships with teens from other counties.

**Schedule**  
**Dates**

**February 7 - Organizational STEM "Pre Super Bowl" Meeting**  
Haskell Ag Lab 1:00-3:00 pm — Appetizers Provided!



**April (TBA) - Debriefing Webinar**

**May (TBA) - Meeting to plan STEM Clover Kid Camp**

**June (TBA) - STEM Clover Kid Camp**

**Register at <http://goo.gl/forms/VbG3cbZYm7> or by contacting the Cedar County Extension Office at 402-254-6821 by February 1. (Spacing is limited to first 15 teens)**

# Soup Dinner & Raffle



Sponsored by the  
**Dixon County**  
**4-H Junior Leaders**



Sunday, February 21, 2016

11:00am – 1:00pm

Dixon Community Center

Dixon, Nebraska

Serving Soups, 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...

Several bags of different Soybean Seed & Application

Amazing Electronics!!

**AND MANY OTHER GREAT ITEMS!!**

Proceeds go to College Scholarships  
and/or Citizen Washington Focus Trip



Members: MaKayla & Megan Forsberg, Ciana & Alicia Messerschmidt, Katie Bathke, Abbie Bloom, Alyssa Boese, Mackenzie & Alyssa Crosgrove, Jasmine Galvin, Nicole Hanson, Carin Mellick, Jozie & Katie Schutte, Dillon Berg, Emma Webb, Keiziah Connell, Mitchell Fischer, Katelyn Pehrson.