

## Views from VanDeWalle

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*October 5, 2016*

### National 4-H Week

National 4-H Week is October 2-8, 2016 and this year's theme is "#4HGrown." 4-H reaches almost six million young people through our community of 100 public universities. Programs are delivered by 3,500 4-H professionals and 500,000 volunteers. Young people experience 4-H through school and community clubs, in-school and after-school programs and 4-H camps.

In 4-H, we believe in the power of America's youth to succeed in life; however, too many kids lack opportunities that prepare them with the skills to lead in their lives, community and careers. The 4-H experience taught 4-H alumni critical life skills — responsibility, compassion, respect and the value of hard work. It helped them become a confident kid and adult. That's why 4-H created "SHARE YOUR #4HGROWN STORY." A nationwide call to action for 25 million alumni to share a photo or story that inspires 10 million kids and helps provide them with critical skills to lead for a lifetime. Help us grow the next generation of True Leaders — because every child deserves the opportunity to succeed.

4-H's reach and depth is unmatched. Through our community of 100 public universities, 4-H reaches kids in every corner of America - from urban neighborhoods to suburban schoolyards to rural farming communities. Our network of 500,000 volunteers and 3,500 4-H professionals provides caring and supportive mentoring to all 6 million 4-H'ers, helping them grow into true leaders today and in life.

Kids complete hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture and citizenship, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Kids experience 4-H in every county and parish in the country—through in-school and after-school programs, school and community clubs and 4-H camps.

Locally in Fillmore County, our Extension staff of three and numerous volunteers reaches over 200 4-H members and another 100 conservatively through school enrichment activities.

During 4-H week this year, we reached out to 3-4<sup>th</sup> graders in the county with the National 4-H Youth Science Day activity, "Drone Discovery" and more!

To find out more about 4-H in Nebraska, go to [4h.unl.edu](http://4h.unl.edu). In Fillmore County, we have our own website which can be found at [fillmore.unl.edu](http://fillmore.unl.edu). You can also contact our office at (402) 759-3712 or visit us at 1340 G Street in Geneva, NE and we'd be happy to add you to our monthly newsletter so your kids can be a part of the experience!