



April 2021 Narrative Report

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Upcoming Events:

May 3rd- Wellness in Tough Times Mtg., Pollinator Working Group

May 5th – Communicating with Farmers Under Stress

May 6th - Conversations with 4-H Coordinators, Clover Kids – FC

May 11-13th – 4-H PYD Academy, virtual conference

May 11th – Fillmore Co. 4-H Council

May 13th – Clover Kids, CC

May 19th – State Fair Update

May 20th – Static Supt. Mtg.

May 21st – NCEA Board mtg.

May 24th – NCEA Conf. Com mtg, Clay Co. Staff mtg., Clay Co. 4-H Council mtg.

May 27th – Ag Safety Day, Livestock Auction mtg.

May 31st – WTT mtg

June 1st – Zone 10 Lead Educator Connection

June 4th – Working Pollinator Group

Crops – Youth & STEM

An orientation for the **Innovative Youth Corn Challenge** teams was conducted for nine teams, representing nine counties. Two new and exciting components were added this year including the opportunity to showcase modern agriculture production through a multimedia presentation and a mentoring component with the UNL Agronomy club members.

As co-leader of the **STEM-careers team**, I met with staff at UNMC to develop a partnership with technologies available that teach youth about the medical field through hands-on simulations and virtual reality technologies. Collaborative efforts will continue in the fall.

The USDA, AFRI grant was submitted by Nebraska, Alaska and Hawaii titled, **World of Agriculture: Comparison of Traditional & Modern Technology Using Virtual Reality**. If funded, this \$750,000 grant would allow youth to explore agriculture through a variety of pathways, looking through a historical lens and how science and technology has advanced our food production system. Youth will create their own virtual reality tours on an agricultural topic of their choosing and share with their peers.

Garden TOOLS for Corn professional development program for youth development professionals continued; we have one more session for extension professionals in which we will write lessons to be peer-reviewed for school programming, workshops, etc.





4-H Youth Development & Ag Literacy

I conducted a **Clover Kid workshop** in Clay and Fillmore Counties with a combined total of fourteen youth who participated in-person. Youth learned about fabric and how cotton and wool produced. The hands-on component taught youth how to weave yarn in-and-out of a plastic canvas decoration for their room which can be brought to the county fair.



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fair.

The **Wellness in Tough Times** youth team will be ordering supplies for a “Little Library” project in the seven communities as a way for youth and

parents to participate in Nebraska Extension’s Read for Resiliency program. A multi-state group of Extension staff from the North Central region is working to create a comprehensive and robust **pollinator curriculum** for youth in Pre-K through 12th grades. I am the lead for Nebraska on this project.

Unit Leader, Professional Development

As President of NCEA, I participated in a two-day, **Public Issues Leadership Development virtual conference**. Strategies on innovation and moving Extension forward were presented. Today, Extension plays a significant role in rural, urban, and suburban life and extension offices are in or near most of the nation’s approximately 3,000 counties. We continue to help local citizens and organizations evaluate the effectiveness of learning tools, conduct research and co-create programs to improve the lives of our clientele. I also provided an update to the Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards as the NCEA President. As **Lead Educator**, I spent time with a professional development opportunity that outlined expectations, tips, and strategies for success.

Time was spent hiring a new office manager in Clay County. Teri Pollet was hired to replace Deanna Peshek, long-time office manager of 30 years. A seamless transition was able to be made with Deanna training Teri. Madeline Allen was hired as Fillmore Co. Summer Intern.

News Columns/Blogs

Apr. 7th – Early Childhood

April 14th – Ag Safety Day

April 21st - Gratitude Tribute

April 28th - Communicating with Farmers Under Stress

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