



August 2021 Narrative Report

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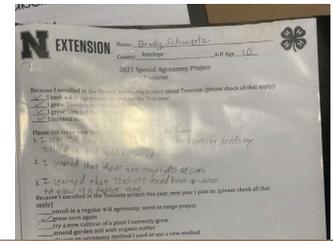
Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 8th** – Husker Harvest Days Planning mtg.
- Sept. 9th** – Regional YCSC
- Sept 10th** – Youth Pollinator mtg., set up Ag Venture Day
- Sept. 13th** – Ag Venture Day
- Sept. 14th** – Employee Wellness Com. Mtg., Radon Rotary mtg.
- Sept. 15th** – Husker Harvest Days Booth
- Sept. 16th** – Virtual Field Trip Planning
- Sept. 17th** – Koffee w/Kathleen, NCEA Board mtg, ESU 6 Presentation
- Sept. 20th** – Fillmore Ext. Bd.
- Sept. 21st** – Extension Huddle-present NCEA, Zone 10 mtg
- Sept. 22nd** – Water Jamboree, FANE planning
- Sept 27th** – UAV Flying
- Sept. 28th** –Rural Wellness mtg
- Sept. 29th** - NCEA/Adm. Mtg.
- Sept. 30th** – CWF & Clover Kids

Crops – Youth & STEM

As co-superintendent of the **State 4-H Agronomy, Weeds and Range** divisions, I helped work on final details of the exhibition hall display changes. I judged and organized all exhibits at the State Fair. This was the first year in which I implemented the statewide **special agronomy project** which featured Teosinte this year. Fifteen youth exhibited one of those exhibits and explained what they learned from this unique plant. This provided youth an opportunity to participate in the crops project even if they don't have access to a field.

I facilitated the “in-person” **Nebraska Youth Crop Scouting Competition** which had five teams participate at ENREC. Twenty-three youth scouted plots looking for pests and finding answers to a variety of scenarios given by the judges. I also facilitated an evening “Ask an Agronomist” for youth to help them prepare. The top two youth teams have the right to compete in the regional competition conducted virtually this year with Iowa State as the host.



4-H Youth Development

August is always a time to review how county fairs went. I attended Clay and Fillmore County Council meetings. We discussed ways to improve for future fairs.



The Nebraska State Fair takes many people to make it work and I helped haul Fillmore County static exhibits up. I worked the **4-H Market Swine Show** which is always fun to reconnect with colleagues.

Professional Development/Leadership Responsibilities

I taught 36 farmers and rural residents about ways to recognize symptoms of chronic stress in Blue Hill. This program, Communicating with Farmers Under Stress reminds people how to identify people in distress, how to approach them and resources if a person is considering suicide. As part of the Wellness in Tough Times Team, we met to debrief our eXtension grant program to file the file report. A small team of youth development educators and youth development specialist, Michelle Krehbiel met to form a group writing articles that help youth cope with challenging issues impacting them and their families.

I continue to serve on the Extension employee wellness team. We launched a newsletter and working how to have a presence at Front Door Forum, Fall Conference and Wellness Fridays. Locally, I provided an update on programs Extension offers to the Geneva Rotary Club.

As **President of NCEA**, I reconvened meetings for the fall & winter. Our organization is updating our bylaws to make them more relevant in addition to updating our website and software system.

News Columns/Blogs

August: Herd That Conference, 4-H Delivery Methods, Tomatoes, Youth Crop Scouting Competition Results