



Views from VanDeWalle

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Innovative Youth Corn Challenge 2.0: Registration Open

The Nebraska Innovative Youth Corn Challenge is approaching its tenth-year engaging youth in crop science-based education. The Innovative Youth Corn Challenge (IYCC) was created as a partnership between the Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Extension. Since the Innovative Youth Corn Challenge program's inception in 2012, 74 teams have participated in the program with 37 teams successfully harvesting and analyzing their plot data. A total of 147 youth have participated.

This program continues to evolve and has exciting changes planned for the 2021 growing season with IYCC 2.0. A citizen scientist component will encourage youth to connect with researchers on a real problem facing corn growers and assist in collecting data or designing a tool to solve a real-world problem.

The IYCC 2.0 will also feature an agricultural literacy piece which will help others understand corn production practices and highlight teams' efforts. This will allow youth to promote their own work through creative works such as a video or other multimedia tool. Nebraska Extension will execute this evolving, innovative and in-depth program in 2021, which will be the tenth year creating agricultural, science-informed graduates in the agricultural industry.

Prizes for participation in this project include 1st place - \$1,000, 2nd place - \$500, 3rd place - \$250, "Extra Mile" Award \$200, CORN Communications Award \$200 and \$50 for completion of the project. In addition, each team receives a crop scouting kit valued at over \$200, plot sign and the opportunity to engage with UNL agronomic professionals through "ask an agronomist" sessions.

For more information about this program and to register, go to <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/cornchallenge>. Registration is due March 15th. Contact Brandy VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu or (402) 759-3712 for details about this program.

Farmers and Ranchers Cow/Calf College - January 28

The annual Farmers and Ranchers Cow/Calf College "Partners in Progress – Beef Seminar" will be held at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Clay Center on January 28, 2021 with registration, starting at 9:00 a.m. The program will run from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This program is sponsored by Nebraska Extension's Farmers and Ranchers College and will feature several outstanding speakers discussing issues and management strategies that can affect the profitability of all beef producers. There is no cost for the event and the public is invited. It does include a noon meal, which means that early registration is necessary to reserve materials and a meal.

Directed health measures will be practiced; register at <https://go.unl.edu/farmersrancherscollege> or by calling Fillmore County Extension at (402) 759-3712.

