



Upcoming Events:

- March 2nd - County Government Day
- March 3rd - Staff Meeting
- March 4th - NCEA Board Meeting, ECU
- March 6-7th - Geneva Rural Living Expo, Ag Hall
- March 9th - LBNRD: Best Management Practices, Shickley
- March 10th - County Supervisor Mtg.
- March 10th - 4-H Financial Mgmt Webinar
- March 10th - Fair Board Mtg.
- March 11-14th - NSTA Conference, Chicago
- March 16th - Water Riches Mtg.
- March 17-18th - Eureka Spring Conference, Omaha
- March 23rd - FCDC Bd Mtg.
- March 25th - 4-H Council Mtg.
- March 27th - SREC Spring Conference
- March 29th - Animal Science Day
- March 30th - CSI & Extension Bd. Mtg.
- April 2nd - NAWMN Conference, Hastings

Narrative Report - February 2015

Brandy VanDeWalle, Extension Educator
Fillmore County

Crops for the Future

Youth Development – Crops & Ag Literacy

I presented to nearly 90 county weed superintendents and members of county weed boards at their **annual Nebraska Association of County Weed Board conference** in Kearney. I provided an overview of Extension's crops programs related to the crop and plant science areas.

Another beta version of the **on-farm research app** was released for testing; this time it was released to a group of producers for their feedback. The On-Farm Research programs were held reviewing the 2014 results; I hope to recruit more Fillmore County producers for the 2015 season. Due to a death in m family, I was unable to teach pesticide safety this year; Todd Whitney covered for me.

The **Ag Safety Day** schedule is near completion with more logistics being completed, especially with the addition of an adult workshop schedule.

Crop Production Systems

Despite, snowy and cold weather conditions, 103 people gathered for the final 2014-15 **Farmers & Ranchers College** program with Damian Mason with Agriculture: Topics & Trends of Tomorrow. His presentation proved to be a very entertaining presentation with thought provoking content about agriculture's challenges.

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4-H Youth Development

The **County Fair schedule** has created some major changes with the schedule, so time has been spent with 4-H members and families providing feedback on possibilities. I coordinated the Fillmore County **4-H KickOff** with assistance from Jana Schelkopf and other 4-H Council members. Nearly 75 were in attendance with several youth enrolling in 4-H.

Professional & Community Development

I had the opportunity to participate in the 30th Annual **Nebraska Women in Agriculture** conference. This was only the second year I have participated and well worth the time! Discussions around advocating for agriculture were very powerful. Rebecca Long-Chaney was very inspirational and reminded us that no matter how busy we are in life; make time for family and friends. Her message and involvement with “advocacy” is to be commended and her twin daughters also have shared their experiences in agriculture through children’s stories. With all of the Chipotle ads, Meatrix videos and other false information out there, it is good to know there are some people sharing the factual information about modern agriculture. The bottom line is that even though farmers and ranchers shouldn’t have to defend their way of life and jobs, we need to because of the increasing disconnect consumers have with agriculture.

I participated in the **Nebraska Association of County Extension Board Annual meeting** with an extension board member. An excellent program on the Community Vitality Initiative and other related programs were presented and conversations with our senators was done to inform them what Extension does. As Vice President of the **Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association (NCEA)**, I attended a meeting in which strategic planning was conducted to lead the NCEA organization into the coming years. I assisted with the **Fillmore County Development Corporation’s Annual Meeting**; John Nelson, former Lieutenant Governor and Geneva native spoke on his experiences as Lieutenant Governor.

Personal Columns

February 4th - Celebrate 4-H Month

February 11th - Pesticide Safety Education

February 18th- Precision Agriculture Program

February 25th - Crop Scouting Training