



June/July 2021 Narrative Report

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Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

Upcoming Events:

Aug. 2nd - Clay Count 4-H Council

Aug. 3rd – Youth Crop Scouting Competition

Aug. 9th – Regional Youth Crop Scouting Competition Planning, Clay Co. Ext. Board

Aug 10th – Employee Wellness Committee, Youth Mental Health Article

Aug. 13th – Youth Pollinator Education Working Group

Aug. 17th – Zone 10 Check-In

Aug. 18th – State Fair Web, Comm. w/Farmers Under Stress

Aug. 20th – NCEA meeting

Aug. 25th – Haul State Fair exhibits, Agronomy Judging

Aug. 29th – Help with State Fair Swine Show

Crops – Youth & STEM

I taught some of the **Garden TOOLS for Corn** lessons which involved coding. Learning how to integrate technology into an outdoor learning space will hopefully keep kids engaged in plant science related activities.

I facilitated the **Annual Excellence in Ag Sciences day** which is a professional development conference for 26 Nebraska high school ag educators. We explored systems thinking tools to describe agroecosystems and how systems thinking guides decisions in the garden and our social relationships. We used BBC micro:bits to collect data in our environment to design technology solutions to local problems. Interactive games and online resources were explored to understand the complexity involved in the food system, preparing students to make future personal decisions related to sustainability and their interactions with others.



A team of Nebraska Extension Educators submitted a proposal to National 4-H Council for **the 4-H Ag Innovators Experience** that is sponsored by Bayer every year. Some of the activities and lessons I had created for other crop programs, I modified for this grant. Our team submitted the proposal but unfortunately weren't funded.



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 will advance to a regional competition which I am assisting.



The Ag Manure Management team asked for my input how to integrate Land Application Training into a high school curriculum, so I participated in a training to see first-hand.

4-H Youth Development

July is county fair season and I helped check-in livestock at the Clay County Fair and facilitated many events at the Fillmore County fair. Overall, things went very well for post-pandemic fairs. Thanks to many hours that staff work, youth were able to be recognized for their efforts. It also takes many volunteers to orchestrate the events.

Professional Development/Leadership Responsibilities

As **President of NCEA**, I assisted a committee which has successfully purchased a new data management software for a website and membership management tool. Our executive team met with Dean Varner to discuss potential concerns and ways to move Extension forward.

I submitted three professional proposals to the **National Association of County Agricultural Agents** and all three were accepted. They included Ag Issues: Wellness in Tough Times program which Glennis McClure presented on my behalf and 4-H & Youth Programming: Pivoting to an online Youth Crop Scouting Competition presented on my behalf by Amy Timmerman since these were both during peak county fair timeframes. I was a national finalist for the Excellence in 4-H & Youth Development programming for our team’s Virtual NebrASKa Scientist Field Trip programming.

News Columns/Blogs

June: Youth Crop Scouting Competition, Weed Field Day, Mosquitoes, County Fair, Sportsmanship

July: 4-H Friends, Teamwork, School Preparation & Routine