



## Upcoming Events:

- May 4<sup>th</sup> - HR4AG program planning
- May 4-5<sup>th</sup> - IANR Distance Education Agronomy Search Committee Interviews
- May 5-8<sup>th</sup> - Office Move
- May 18<sup>th</sup> - HR4AG program planning
- May 19<sup>th</sup> - NCEA Board Mtg
- May 19<sup>th</sup> - Unit Leader Webinar
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - Holly Starts, office orientation
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - SREC Extension Board Regional Mtg.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Plant Community Garden
- May 26<sup>th</sup> - Sheep Weigh-In
- May 27<sup>th</sup> - Ag Safety Day Set-Up
- May 28<sup>th</sup> - Ag Safety Day
- June 1<sup>st</sup> - Extension Board Mtg.
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Water Riches Call
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Staff Mtg.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Chat w/ Chuck Webinar
- June 4<sup>th</sup> - NAWMN Video Shoot

## Narrative Report - Mar/Apr 2015

**Brandy VanDeWalle, Extension Educator  
Fillmore County**

### Crops for the Future

#### Youth Development – Crops & Ag Literacy

Many hours were spent creating the **Irrigation Z-Mag publication**, which compiled a variety of irrigation resources together with graphics, embedded videos, and other publications. Teachers, extension staff, business and industry and anyone interested in learning more about irrigation can use this.

Fourteen teams are signed up for the **Innovative Youth Corn Challenge**; I coordinated a face-to-face orientation in addition to a webinar for the youth and their advisors. All youth received a scouting kit and resources to assist them during the growing season.

I judged the junior high agricultural literacy speech contest and junior parliamentary procedure at the **Nebraska FFA Convention**.

I was invited to the **Polk County Ag Safety Day** and taught 170 youth a chemical look-alike program and reminded them how everyday “safe” items can look similar to chemicals.

### Crop Production Systems

The Nebraska Extension **on-farm research app** was released for public. I presented about the irrigation apps Extension has created to approximately 40 producers in Shickley at the **LBNRD Best Management Practices** program.

The **Nebraska Ag Water Management Network** hosted an annual conference for about 35 producers in Hastings in which I presented an update on how I’ve engaged youth and Nebraska Agricultural Education instructors with the Watermark Sensors and ETgage.

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## **4-H Youth Development**

Discussion with the Fair Board on the County Fair schedule was wrapped up. In addition, 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.

I coordinated an **Animal Science Day**, which included about 40 youth from 4 counties. I taught youth Quality Assurance and facilitated a livestock-judging contest for youth. This seemed to work well and many positive comments were received, so this event will likely be an annual event and eliminate the livestock-judging contest held during the fair.

There are changes and updates coming from the state level in ways **4-H Financial Management** is conducted at the county level. I participated in the webinar that provided a great update on best management practices.

**Crop Science Investigation** youth and I planted seeds to be used in the Community Garden for a CSI workshop; unfortunately due to lack of numbers the CSI program has been cancelled for this year; more recruitment and marketing will occur to facilitate this program in 2016.

## **Professional & Community Development**

I coordinated a Nebraska Extension Booth at the **Geneva Rural Living Expo** which featured the blender bikes the Healthy Lifestyles team received funding. This was a huge hit for both young and old to actually make a smoothie without electricity, but by peddling on the bike.

I was provided an excellent professional development opportunity by attending the **National Science Teacher Association** national meeting in Chicago, IL. Hundreds of sessions that focused on ways to engage youth in science education were offered. Sessions I took particular interest in were: a biotechnology electrophoresis lab, insect labs, and soil science lab and resources. I made some great connections with DuPont, which provides teachers kits to incorporate hands-on learning in the classroom. Connections were also made at the booths and resources obtained on sun safety, hearing safety, weather preparedness, etc. for Ag Safety Day.

I participated in the **Nebraska Educational Technology Association** conference, which was awesome! Many tips were given how to incorporate technology into teaching methods; curriculum and I learned how to utilize various computer programs I already have.

I attended the **Nebraska Extension Eureka Conference at UNO**. Ideas for collaboration were obtained including agriculture safety topics with UNMC faculty and ways to teach leadership concepts via the web with UNO faculty who received funding from the Rural Futures grants.

Time was spent coordinating office manager interviews and working on other office moving details.