**March, 2016**

**Fillmore County 4-H News**

### 4-H Calendar

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#### March
- 4: 4-H Foundation Scholarships Due
- 13: Handy Hands Club meeting @ Manning Grain Elevator 2pm
- 15: Omaha Fashion Week Student Night
- 15: Innovative Youth Corn Challenge Apps Due to Ext. Office
- 16: 4-H Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 31: Crop Science Investigation & Gardening Workshop, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., Ext. Office

#### April
- 1: 4-H Enrollment Deadline!
- 3: Animal Science Day, 1:30 p.m., Fillmore Co. Fairgrounds
- 13: 4-H Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 18: 4-H Public Speaking Contest, 7:00 p.m., Geneva Library

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### 2016 4-H Enrollment

This year, all youth will register online at ne.4honline.com. **Once registration is complete, families must send enrollment fee to the Extension office before the registration will be accepted.** Cost will remain $10 per youth or a maximum of $20 per family. Clover Kids are free. Volunteers will also need to enroll online. If you have any questions, please contact Holly at the Extension office. 759-3712

### 2016 Pick Your Project

The latest version of Pick Your Project is now available online at 4h.unl.edu and scroll under the Project Resources tab. Use this as a guide when completing your 2016 enrollment form. Check out the new curriculum (clothing!) and spark an interest in a new project for this year!

### Thank you!

A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers who made the 4-H Kick-Off a success! Over 75 people attended the event. We look forward to many new 4-H members in 2016!

### 2016 Fair Theme

**4-H GROWS HERE**

**The county fair dates are July 16-21st for 2016!**
Contests

4-H Public Speaking Contest  
April 18, 2016  7:00 p.m.  
Extension Office

The 4-H Public Speaking Contest will be held Monday April 18th at 7:00 PM. The contest will be held in the Fillmore Co. Extension Office. All 4-H’ers and Clover Kids can compete in the speech and public service announcement classes. A full description of the contest rules, age divisions and registration forms can be found on the 4-H page at www.fillmore.unl.edu. Contact Rachel or Brandy at (402) 759-3712 for any questions.

Livestock

Animal Science Day

Coming to Geneva on Sunday, April 3rd is a short animal science program (FREE) which will offer a livestock judging contest, a face to face quality assurance program, tips for your livestock projects and other fun hands-on animal science activities. This requires a lot of planning and assistance so if you are interested in participating, sign up by March 28th. There must be a minimum of 25 youth in order for this program to occur; invite your friends from neighboring counties too! RSVP to the Fillmore County Extension office at 402-759-3712 or by email Brandy at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu.

2016 State Fair Beef Show

The State Fair 4-H and FFA beef shows will be no-fit. The decision was made based on feedback from staff and families as well as the success of the blow and go showmanship contest at the 2015 Nebraska State Fair. Families were largely in favor of the change, specifically, they cited:
- A reduction in cost of supplies and products.
- The need for fewer blocking chutes needed and help expedite the unloading process.

Quality Assurance Training

Quality Assurance training is required for all food producing animal or livestock project members. Food producing and livestock projects include market beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry and rabbit. Quality Assurance is continuing its move online for 2016. Youth are highly encouraged to participate in the online course which is available at http://campus.extension.org. To complete it, you will need your 4-H Access ID number which can be found by calling our office.

Livestock Quality Assurance is a self-directed course designed for youth ages 8-18. Participants will learn about good production practices and producing quality food products from taking this course. The course has been divided into three levels, Junior (4-H Youth Ages 8-10), Intermediate (4-H Youth Ages 11-13), and Senior (4-H Youth Ages 14-18). Each year youth will be required to complete three modules within their age level. Youth are eligible to work ahead so that they will be done with Quality Assurance requirements until they reach the next age level.

4-H Club Info

4-H Club of the Month

The Nebraska 4-H Foundation and Nebraska 4-H Ambassadors have joined together to start a program which recognizes 4-H clubs throughout the state of Nebraska. Any 4-H club may nominate themselves to be the Club of the Month. Nominations are due the second Friday of the month. The club who is chosen to be Club of the Month will receive a $50 cash card from the Nebraska 4-H Foundation and their story will be showcased on the Nebraska 4-H Foundation’s Facebook, Twitter, and website along with the State 4-H website and Facebook and in their local newspaper. The nomination form can be found at http://ne4hfoundation.org/recognition.

Clover Kids

Why wait to join 4-H? Become a Clover Kid! All 5-7 year-olds (as of January 1, 2016) are invited to become Clover Kids. As a Clover Kid, participate, non-competitively, in educational and recreational activities. You can even participate at the County Fair! Become a member of a club or an independent member. Simply complete enrollment online by April 1st. There is no fee to be a Clover Kid. For resource manuals and activity ideas for Clover Kids, please contact the Extension Office at 759-3712.
Leaders can still do quality assurance for a club meeting if they'd like. They need to make arrangements with Brandy to do so.

**Sheep Weigh-In**

Annual market sheep weigh-in and tagging will be **Tuesday, May 24th from 4-6:00 p.m.** At the Fillmore County Fairgrounds. A DNA sample must be taken from any animal going to Aksarben or State Fair. DNA samples are $6/head. All 4-H market sheep showing at county fair must weigh-in at an official weigh-in.

**Horse Enthusiast**

**District and State Horse Shows**

The District and State horse show dates and entry deadlines have been set. Show information is located on the UNL Animal Science webpage under Equine Extension/4-H. [http://animalscience.unl.edu/web/anisci/anscdistrictandstate4hshows](http://animalscience.unl.edu/web/anisci/anscdistrictandstate4hshows)

**District Show Dates:**
- June 13th - Kearney
- June 16th - Leigh
- June 17th - Bloomfield
- June 21st - Lincoln

**State Horse Show:**
Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show will take place on **July 10-14, 2016**.

**Horse Exhibitor Levels**

The cold weather months are great times to start work on 4-H Horse Advancement Level work. In the winter, riders can complete knowledge and demonstration requirements so when the weather gets warmer in the spring, all the member would need to do is take the riding portion of the Levels work.

To ensure the safety of all horse exhibitors and spectra-tors, it is REQUIRED for ALL youth to pass the Beginning Horseman: Level One testing. This level is designed for riders who have little or no experience around horses. It emphasizes correct and safe handling and riding principles and should help develop the members' confidence concerning their ability to ride and guide a horse. The rider's balance, correct seat and use of hands' should be stressed.

Work with your horse leaders to complete this certification. Resources are available to study at [http://animalscience.unl.edu/anscextensionequine4hhorseprogram](http://animalscience.unl.edu/anscextensionequine4hhorseprogram)

**Crop Science Investigation (CSI) & Community Garden**

Have a green thumb? Interested in crops? If you answered yes to any of those questions, join the CSI and/or Community Garden teams this year. CSI and Community Garden will work together on a couple of workshops. If you have a CSI notebook from last year, please bring it to the workshops. There is no charge for either program this year. Here's what you can learn about in CSI:
- Learn about the importance of agriculture and how crops are used.
- Conduct cool, hands-on science experiments.
- Listen to speakers and learn about careers.
- Help conduct field plot research.
- Become a CSI investigator and detect plant problems.

The program will kick-off **March 31st at the Extension Office from 4:30 -6:00 p.m.** We will start some seeds for the community garden and also learn about seed selection for both gardening and crops so this will be a joint program! If you are interested in the Community Garden please let the Extension office know by **April 1st**.

**2016 Special Garden Project**

**Jazzy Mix Zinnia**

The Special Garden Project is a way to offer 4-H members the chance to grow unusual and fun projects in their gardens. This year the Special Garden Project is focused on the colorful, Jazzy Mix Zinnia. 4-H members are able to learn about growing the Zinnias, soil care and gardening! They also have the chance to enter the zinnias at the County and State Fair! For more information on the project please contact the Extension Office at 402-759-3712 or our website fillmore.unl.edu.
Innovative Youth Corn Challenge

5th Annual Innovative Youth Corn Challenge Nebraska Extension and the Nebraska Corn Board are offering the fourth Innovative Youth Corn Challenge contest. This contest, open to 4-H members (age 10 & older as of Jan. 1st) or FFA members (in-school members), guides participants through all aspects of corn production, as well as agricultural careers related to corn production. As a team, youth will be challenged to implement a production practice different than normal to determine if they increased their yield. Economics and sustainability of the practice will also be considered. Yields, cropping history, and production information will be collected in the Corn Yield Challenge management summary. Cash prizes and plaques will be given to the first, second, and third place teams. First place will receive $1,000, second place will receive $500, and third place will receive $250. Sustainability, crop scouting and “extra mile” awards will also be given, each worth $200.

To participate in 2016, youth must complete and return an entry form by March 15th to the Fillmore County Extension Office in Geneva, NE. Forms can be downloaded at cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/activities. For more information, contact Brandy VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu

Companion Animal Challenge

The second 4-H Companion Animal Challenge will be held on Saturday March 12th at the Animal Science Complex. Contests include: Dog Skill-a-thon, Dog Quiz bowl, Companion Animal Demonstration Contest, Companion Animal Art and Photography Contests. This event allows youth to apply their companion animal knowledge but does not require them to have an animal! It will be held the same day as the 4-H Horse Stampede so that youth can compete in both events if they choose.
Entries are due by Feb. 19th. For more information and registration forms: http://animalscience.unl.edu/ansc-4-h-companion-animal-challenge

Additional Info

Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute

NAYI is a five-day event that brings together high school juniors and seniors from across the state to help build leadership skills, explore new aspects of agriculture and encourage young people to become more involved with and remain in agriculture. The Institute takes place at UNL’s East Campus. All meals, lodging, and activities are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Applications can be found at www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2016.

Small Animals

Paws-On 4-H Dog Clinic

Paws on 4-H Dog Clinic – April 2nd in Lincoln. The Paws On Clinic will be held at the Greater Lincoln Obedience Club (GLOC) in Lincoln, NE on April 2nd 2016 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. 4-H educators along with members of GLOC will work with youth on preparing their dogs for obedience and agility. The flyer/registration form can be found here: http://animalscience.unl.edu/Extension/Companion/PawsOn%20Day%20RegistrationFlyer2016.pdf
Science Saturdays at Raising Nebraska

Celebrate the International Year of the Pulse through Science Saturdays, a free and open to the public event, at Raising Nebraska located on the State Fairgrounds in Grand Island, NE. Science Saturday occurs the second Saturday of every month with the facility open from 10:00 to noon. The highlighted program consists of an educational, interactive and fun 25 minute session. Upcoming programs include:

- March 12th – Pulse on the Plate by Cami Wells
- April 9th – Classify you Pulse by Jim Schild
- May 14th – Pollinator Power by Doug Golick

For more details about the Science Saturday program, visit www.raisingnebraska.net or contact Beth Janning at 308-385-3967 or ejanning2@unl.edu

NACEB Scholarship

The Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards (NACEB) sponsors a $1,000 scholarship for a UNL College of Agriculture Sciences (CASNR) and Natural Resources or College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS) incoming freshman or transfer student and a $500.00 scholarship for a current student sophomore or higher. Applications are due March 15, 2016 and are reviewed by the respective Dean’s offices. For application forms, contact the Extension Office or download the form at https://sites.google.com/site/nebraskassocntyextbds/

Shooting Sports

Nebraska will be hosting the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships at the Heartland Public Shooting Park and Events Center in Grand Island on June 26 – July 1, 2016. This event will involve 4-H youth from across the nation competing in nine disciplines. These include: Compound Archery, Recurve Archery, Air Rifle, Air Pistol, .22 Rifle, .22 Pistol, Shotgun, Muzzleloading, and Hunting Skills.

4-H youth who are interested in participating in one of the above discipline areas please go to http://4h.unl.edu/shootingsports for more information on 4-H Shooting Sports.

Scholarships

4-H Foundation Scholarships

Several scholarships are available to 4-H’ers through the Nebraska 4-H Foundation. Visit www.ne4hfoundation.org/ and click on the “Recognition” tab to find out which scholarships you may be eligible for. All scholarships are due March 4, 2016.

UNL Campus Corner

Apply for admission to UNL; check out the quick online application at http://admissions.unl.edu/

Excited for college?

Red Letter Days are for you to get a sneak peek at college life at the UNL during your senior year. On your visit to campus, you will have the opportunity to:

- Tour campus and the residence halls
- Visit academic facilities and attend sessions with college representatives
- Pick the brain of your tour guide, a current UNL student
- Learn about student engagement opportunities
- Find out important admissions, scholarships and financial information
- Program Fee: $10.00 per person.

Red Letter Day Open House Dates

March 4, 2016 - All-Majors Red Letter Day
March 18, 2016 - All-Majors Red Letter Day
Fillmore County Speech and PSA Contest Guidelines
April 18th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Fillmore County Extension Office
Registrations and All PSA’s Due April 11th

Youth may participate in both the Speech and PSA categories.
Regional Contest eligible Speech and PSA age groups as of January 1, 2016, and length of speeches:

**Junior Division** (Age 8-10), 1 to 3 minutes
**Intermediate Division** (Age 11-13) 3 to 5 minutes
**Senior Division** (Age 14-18) 5 to 8 minutes

County Only:
**Novice Division**
Open to those 4-H members who have never given a speech or PSA at the county contest and who are age 8, 9 or 10 as of January 1. Novice participants have the option to read a poem, use a book or read from a script. Regardless of what the speaker chooses, an introduction or some connection to 4-H is strongly encouraged.

**Clover Kid** (5-7): Time limit is under 2 minutes. Can be a speech, poem or story. Does not have to be about 4-H.

Speech Guidelines:
- All regional eligible speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.
- Many speakers in the Public Speaking Contest have given speeches in other contests. This is fine; however previous speeches may not be used verbatim for the 4-H contest.
- Acknowledge the source of information used in the speech. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference but should not be quoted directly unless you tell the audience your source.
- The use of visual aids and props are not allowed. Dress appropriately. Do not wear costumes or special effect clothing.
- No team speeches are allowed.
- Youth selected to advance to regional competition in the speech category may participate in one Regional 4-H Public Speaking Contests of their choice. Regional contests are held in North Platte, Norfolk, Lincoln and the Panhandle via distance education.
- A **Clover Kid division** is being offered again to let young 4-H’ers begin their public speaking careers. They will follow the same rules as the novice division and will receive a ribbon for their participation. Clover Kids is a non-competitive program for 4-H’ers age 5, 6, and 7 as of January 1, so there will be no judging that takes place.

PSA Guidelines:
Radio PSA’s will be submitted on CD along with the PSA text and registration form two (2) weeks prior to the County Contest.
- All PSA’s are 60 seconds in length.
- All PSA’s will use the state theme "4-H Grows..." as the basis for their PSA.
- All radio PSA’s must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska.
- All 4-H PSA’s must include the following tag line within the last ten seconds of the PSA: “Learn more about the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu and Know How. Know Now.” The tag line is included in the 60 second time limit.
- Sound effects and public domain music may be used. Copyrighted material may not be used.
- All PSA’s must be the original work of the presenter. Contestants may not use PSA’s written and provided by the state or national staff.
- No team PSA’s are allowed.
- Please use .wav or .mp3 audio formats when recording your PSA

Scoring:
- Judges will deduct three points from the contestant's score for each 30 seconds under or over the time limit. (Senior division only).
- Speeches not related to 4-H in some way (excluding Clover Kids and Novice) will be lowered one ribbon placing.