



November 2021 Narrative Report

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 30th – Clay Co. Supervisors, Clay Co. Planning w/Holli

Dec. 1st – 4-H Interest Team Day, Grand Island

Dec. 2nd – One-on-One w/ Megan

Dec. 6th – Fillmore Co. Ext. Bd.

Dec. 7th – Youth Resiliency Team mtg., NCEA Presidents Chat

Dec. 8th – 4-H Diversity Committee

Dec. 9th – Farmers & Ranchers College, Dr. Kohl with Increasing Your Odds for Success

Dec. 13th – Youth Resiliency Team, Clay Co. 4-H BMP mtg.

Dec. 14th – Employee Wellness Com., Pollinator Working Group, Extension Huddle, VR FANE grant mtg.

Dec. 15th – WTT Next Steps mtg.

Dec. 16th – NE 4-H Virtual Share Day

Brandy VanDeWalle

Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

Crops Systems –

The 2020-21 *Farmers & Ranchers College* reached over 185 people in-person & virtually who managed over 50,000 acres. 319 people viewed program recordings available on our YouTube site. Dr. Kohl will kick off this winter's program with "Increasing Your Odds for Success" on December 9th at the Bruning Opera House. Cow/Calf College will be on January 25th at Clay Center.

Crops – Youth & STEM

I presented to 1-6th grade youth at **Sandy Creek School** as a part of their Accelerated Reading program celebration. I prepared the following lessons for youth: Positively Popcorn, Ag Product Relay, and a Crop Production Process Timeline. **Virtual Reality** FANE grant-work continues in the planning stages. I created a lesson plan template for the three states to utilize & plant and animal science lesson learning objectives.

4-H Youth Development

I authored an article "Supporting Youth During the Holidays" which was sent to the statewide 4-H list-serve for other extension staff to use. This work is part of the **Youth Resiliency team** which will be sending a series of articles on positive youth development during the holidays.

Clover Kids workshop focused on the difference between needs and wants. Youth identified items they need to survive and items that are wants. A "gratitude turkey" was made to take home and remember what they are most thankful for.





Youth also brought a canned food item which was taken to the Little Food Pantry.

I helped Rachel and Holly with a fall event to celebrate the 2021 4-H year and recruit new 4-H members. It was titled, "Go Big Green Tailgate". Yard games, an inflatable and meal were held in addition to ice cream and popcorn. This fun event was a "come and go" as you please event and was a success!

I facilitated the first workshop in collaboration with Boone/Nance and Greeley/Loup/Wheeler County staff for the 2022 **Citizenship Washington Focus** Trip for youth. Youth identified what is meant to be a good citizen and created ground rules for their group.

Clay and Fillmore County 4-H staff met for an update by Ashley Benes, area 4-H coordinator to review "Best Management Practices" of 4-H programs. In addition, staff planned and reviewed programs for the upcoming months.

Professional Development/Leadership Responsibilities

I attended my first (face-to-face) **NAE4HPYD** conference in Memphis, TN which kicked off with an inspiring message from Shannon McKain, a 4-H alumna & expert in workplace culture. The conference continued with cutting edge professional development practices and cultivated networking to strengthen positive youth development programming and put research into practice. Some of the best sessions I attended were ways to



enhance volunteer relationships using proactive trust tools, a new curriculum (LaunchSkills) to reach high need communities and a very practical way to create needs assessments for programming. I was also humbled to receive one of two Distinguished Service Awards for Nebraska which is given to a member who has served more than seven years of service in the profession.

I facilitated a horticulture program, Fall/winter Lawn and Garden care which featured Nicole Stoner, Extension horticulturist. Seven participants learned timely topics to prepare their landscapes for the winter season.

November News Columns/Blogs: Return to the Farm, Farmers & Ranchers College Programming, Staying Connected During the Holidays, Thanksgiving Trivia & Tree Tips