



February 2024 Narrative Report

Upcoming Events:

Mar. 1st – 4-H Workshop Planning

Mar. 4th – Midwest Dairy Partnership meeting, Leadership Summit

Mar. 5th – Science Field Day

Mar. 11th – Leadership Summit, Fillmore Ext. Board mtg, 4-H bylaws mtg.

Mar. 12th – STEM mtg.

Mar. 13th – Set up Inventure Day

Mar. 14th – Inventure Day

Mar. 15th – State Robotics Competition

Mar. 17th – Volunteer Training

Mar. 18-20th – Statewide 4-H training

Mar. 24th – Animal Science Day

Mar. 25th – Purple Ribbon Kid, Leadership Summit

Mar. 27th – Inventure Day – Clay Co.

Brandy VanDeWalle

Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

4-H Crops –Youth & STEM

Promotion for the Innovative Youth Corn Challenge began, including an interview on Pure Nebraska. One youth from the winning team was able to talk about his team's project. I worked with John Thomas, cropping systems educator located in the Panhandle on the special agronomy project. He peer-reviewed the newsletter I created, provided fun activities for youth to complete and found a source for the seed. Regional youth crop scouting competition coordinators met to start planning for the 2024 programming.

In collaboration with Iowa State Extension, we presented on our North Central Integrated Pest Management grant programming on pollinators at the Nebraska Association for Conservation & Environmental Education conference. Fifteen formal and informal educators from Nebraska participated in our hands-on workshop with positive feedback received regarding the curriculum we packaged.

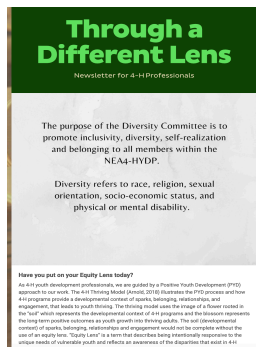


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4-H Youth Development

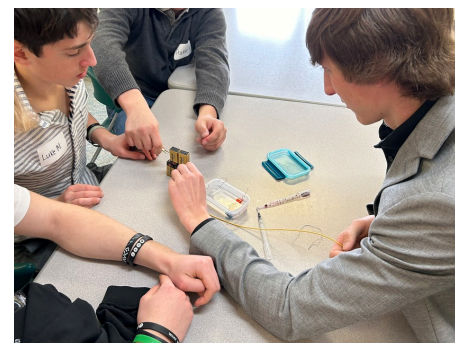


Locally, I organized the **Ag Safety Day** planning to prepare for the 2024 event which will be held in May; inviting speakers and preparing has begun. I assisted with the Fillmore Central ninth grade **Reality Fair**. I helped answer questions to youth regarding college funding and loans with the simulation. As a member of the **Nebraska 4-H Section** diversity committee, I created an online newsletter to membership with tips on reaching all.

I taught 13 **Clay County Clover Kids** during a Clover Kid workshop. Youth created “snowy owls” using pinecones and cotton while parents learned more about the 4-H enrollment process and created snacks for their youth out of a 4-H manual with Holli.



I tested and finished writing the **plant science biotechnology** lesson for **ROOTED in Ag**. In addition, I had the opportunity to pilot the electrophoresis experiment with 80 high school youth at a Science Fair in Hastings. Youth said they enjoyed the experiment and have never done anything with electrophoreses. I also taught 30 junior high youth about variable rate engineering, and they engineered their own variable rate pivot irrigation systems.



Lead Educator & Professional Development

As Lead Educator, I attended the annual **Nebraska Association for County Extension Board** conference and met with state senators, sharing Extension’s story.

News Columns:

Nebraska 4-H Month; Returning to the Farm Program; Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Rural Families; Volunteers Help Youth Thrive