



January 2024 Narrative Report

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 2 – Reality Fair, FCHS

Feb. 5 – Regional YCSC planning

Feb. 5 – Fillmore Co. Ext Board

Feb. 6 – NACEB

Feb. 9 – Pure Nebraska Interview, ROOTED in Ag mtg.

Feb. 12 – Ag Safety Day Planning, Clay Co. Ext. Board

Feb. 13 – 4-H STEM mtg., Fillmore Co. 4-H Council

Feb. 15 – 4-H Diversity mtg

Feb. 16 – NCEA Board mtg

Feb. 26 – Clay Co Clover Kids

Feb. 28=29 – NE Environmental Education Conference Presenter

Brandy VanDeWalle

Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

Crops –Youth & STEM

I led the banquet for the 2023 Innovative Youth Corn Challenge which recognized teams who completed their projects. There were nine teams comprising 43 youth who participated in the program. Five teams obtained harvest data, making significant progress in the program. Two teams successfully completed professional-looking ag literacy videos that documented their progress throughout their project.

Evaluation data is still being collected and a long-term evaluation is in progress, but one youth said, "... We are the sixth generation in our family to farm.... We understand that experimenting with new technology and innovative practices on our farm will be productive for future generations to come..."



4-H Youth Development

Regrouping with the **ROOTED in Ag Team**, we turned in our annual grant report and Hawaii has hired a program assistant who is in the process of starting the VR tours. I will be seeking classrooms to pilot the plant technology lesson using a simplified electrophoreses lab. Also, capturing some 360 pictures from a robotics dairy which will be one of the Nebraska animal science tours. A lot of lesson writing and learning how to use the technologies for the grant will take up February. A large delivery of the curriculum will occur at UNL's **Big Red Camps**. Sarah and I met with Dawn Lindsley, the educator in charge of this program to start understanding the process and logistics required. June 9-14, 2024, on East Campus will be the Big Red Camp.

Much of January was spent on **Nebraska 4-H policy and financial updates** and planning through webinars and various meetings. After rescheduling 3 times, we finally had Fillmore County Market Beef Weigh-In with 54 cattle weighing in.

Lead Educator & Professional Development

In 2024, I will no longer be the lead educator in Clay County with the hiring of a resident educator. I will continue 4-H responsibilities in both Clay and Fillmore Counties. I also judged at District FCCLA STAR competition.



News Columns:

Pesticide Education Programs; Innovative Youth Corn Challenge Results; Manure Application Programming; Drone Part 107 Certification Training