



June/July 2024 Narrative Report

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Upcoming Events:

Aug. 7th – Nebraska Youth Crop Scouting Competition

Aug. 8th – Clay Co. Middle School Leadership Conference

Aug. 10th – ROOTED in Ag Fall Planning, Clay Co. Extension Board, Clay Co. 4-H Council

Aug. 13th – NE State Fair web, Estate Transition Planning mtg.

Aug. 15th – Fillmore Co. 4-H Council

Aug. 21st – Haul exhibits to state fair, Agronomy Supt. Responsibilities

Aug. 23rd – NE Largest Classroom, breeding beef check-in

Aug. 24th – Beef Showmanship

Aug. 25th – Swine Show

Aug. 28th – NE Largest Classroom

4-H Youth Development

June started off with a **Project Palooza** workshop being held at both Clay and Fillmore counties. Between the two days, I taught 37 youth about this year's special agronomy project which was sugar beets. Youth learned how sugar beets are produced, and the process undergone getting them to their table. An experiment also showed youth how brown sugar and powdered sugar is made. Youth made sugar beet posters with a 3-D sugar beet that could be taken to county fair. One youth's project was selected for the state fair.



In addition, four youth participated in a separate **"Special Agronomy Workshop"** and learned specifically about production practices of sugar beets and compared the differences between sugar beet and corn production. Youth created 3-D field posters to enter at the fair and tested for nutritional differences in different types of sugar and sweeteners.

Ten youth participated in my June Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program with this year's topics focusing on animal wellbeing, safety and health. Through a hands-on simulation, youth went through how an animal disease outbreak could occur using a pH indicator.



At the annual **Big Red Camp** on East Campus, I taught 48 youth on how today's technologies allow farmers to be more water efficient with crop production. In groups of 3-5, youth engineered their own variable rate irrigation system. Youth also explored why different crops are grown in different parts of the world. One camp director said she continually heard that the "water presentation" was one of the best to participate. I also served as a table host at their banquet and helped facilitate a dinner conversation to 8 campers.



With back-to-back fairs, most of July was spent facilitating different events at both the **Clay and Fillmore County Fairs**. Fillmore County's fair kicked off with an early horse show on June 29th and ultimately wrapping up with the final event of the livestock auction on July 8th. New to my 18th Fillmore County fair, was a tornado warning in Fillmore County; after exiting the fairgrounds and returning to work with the fair board on what needed to occur, we were able to successfully have our Sunday beef show. I also connected a local news channel with a producer for a storm damage story and briefly assessed some of the hail damage in fields for our crop educators to assist producers. Clay County fair kicked off July 10th and wrapped with the livestock auction on July 13th. County fair is a great time to celebrate the successes and connect with families. It is always a great reminder to see the amazing volunteers who freely put forth their time to create positive experiences for our 4-H youth.



Corn & Soybean fields a few miles west of Geneva near Hwy 41

I continued to work with the **Nebraska Environmental Education** and Iowa State to bring live monarch butterflies to the Nebraska State Fair for the Largest Classroom activities.

News Columns:

JUNE: Storm Damage in Landscapes; Resiliency in 4-H; Dairy Month; County Fair

JULY: 4-H Creates Friendships; Teamwork; Japanese Beetles; Youth Thrive with Travel Experiences