



## March 2024 Narrative Report

### Upcoming Events:

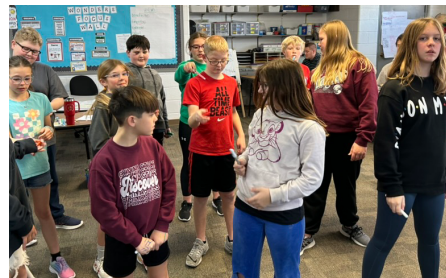
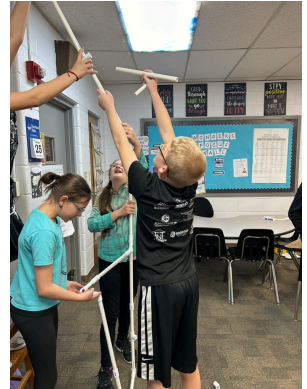
- Apr. 1- YQCA
- Apr. 2 – Leadership Summit, Clay Co. Clover Kids
- Apr. 3 – FCMS Health Fair
- Apr. 8- FCCLA Conference
- Apr. 10 – NCEA mtg, Leadership lesson, CWF mtg
- Apr. 11 – Leadership Lesson, Ag Science mtg.
- Apr. 12 – Leadership Summit, Leadership Lesson, ROOTED in Ag mtg.
- Apr. 15 – Smart Cents lesson, Fillmore Ext. Board
- April 16 – Ag Section, Env. Ed mtg., Smart Cents lesson, 4-H 101, Ag Safety Day mtg.
- Apr. 17 – Aging Partners Presentation
- Apr. 18 – Smart Cents lesson
- Apr. 19 – PRK lessons: inclusion & mastery
- Apr. 22 – Biology SE, Clay Co Clover Kids
- Apr. 23 – 4-H Council
- Apr. 24 – EZ 10 Gathering

Brandy VanDeWalle

Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

### 4-H Youth Development

I taught the **Leadership Summit** lessons to 4 class periods for Shickley 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade youth. We went into the topics of Leadership Discovery and Personality Trait Assessment sessions followed by engaging interactive leadership development activities to build knowledge of interpersonal and teamwork skills. Each participant learned how to: “Be a good leader, make a difference today.”



Ninety-two Fillmore Central and Shickley 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth

participated in **Fillmore County InVenture Day**.

During this event, 15 local businesses and business owners helped youth develop a unique business around a given product by creating a business plan and presenting a pitch to the group. I assisted **Clay County InVenture Day** as a mentor for two groups.



Seventy-five youth from Sandy Creek, Sutton and Doniphan-Trumbull attended. An exciting opportunity for youth was to engage with PBS staff, including Mike Tobias who produces a series on innovation and creativity in Nebraska, “What If...” ([nebraskapublicmedia.org/WhatIf](http://nebraskapublicmedia.org/WhatIf)). My group interviewed him and his videographer.



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I co-presented a session at our **Annual Nebraska Spring 4-H Inservice** with Dr. Krehbiel and Kerry Elsen. Educating 12 colleagues on the impact ambiguous loss within youth and how we can help be a caring adult. Likely more follow-up sessions will occur.



A couple of STEM team members and I met with Ashley Larsen from **Midwest Dairy** to collaborate on a **Dairy STEM tour** that I'll be creating. Once I create a virtual field trip, we will be able to leverage our resources by using dairy lessons already created that meet STEM standards.

I held a **4-H volunteer training** in Clay Center. Six volunteers learned strategies on youth involvement during programs, the 4-H THRIVE model and updated on 4-H BPMs. I assisted with the FLL robotics judging held at UNL. It was inspiring to see the many ways youth put together their projects and came up with community projects.

As co-superintendent of state 4-H agronomy, weeds, and range exhibits, I provided an update and tips to other county 4-H staff on successfully preparing exhibits at fair.

I taught a **PRK lesson on inclusion** to 17 Shickley 4th graders. The teacher reported she had witnessed a positive behavior change in her students because of this lesson. She said, "They are having conversations with each other about belonging and including everyone. Also, they love the skits/hands-on activity!" Regarding impact on her class, "I believe this will have a positive impact on my class because this is a large, sometimes needy group and although we discuss social-emotional topics like this, ... I love that this opportunity is available because I believe in this day and age kids are getting less of this at home and students need to be exposed to these things."



## Lead Educator & Professional Development

-I've been working with Fillmore County bylaws committee to update bylaws and constitution with goal of getting it approved by the end of the year.

-We were fortunate to have four applicants for our Fillmore County summer internship position. I facilitated the hiring process of an intern who will start May 20<sup>th</sup>.

-I updated the Fillmore County EAP plan and UNL's Search Committee Training.

**News Columns:** Volunteers Helping Youth Thrive, Hopeful Purpose, Positive Emotionality, Transcendent Awareness