



May 2024 Narrative Report

Upcoming Events:

June 3rd – Extension Board mtg.

June 4th – Ag Section mtg.

June 5th – Clay Co. 4-H Project Palooza

June 6th – Fillmore Co. 4-H Project Palooza

June 7th – YQCA

June 12-13th – Big Red Camp

June 17th – Clay Co. Sugar Beet Workshop

June 20th - Fillmore Co. Sugar Beet Workshop

June 24th – ROOTED in Ag Planning

June 25th – Livestock Supt. Mtg.

June 29th – Horse Show

July 3-8th – Fillmore Co. Fair

July 10-14th – Clay Co. Fair

Brandy VanDeWalle

Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

4-H Youth Development

I was able to connect with Brett Beavers and take some 360-degree pictures and videos for the **ROOTED in Ag** lessons and for a fall, **STEM virtual field trip** in collaboration with Midwest Dairy. I have also been taking 360-degree pictures of 4-5 fields in the area showing a variety of cropping practices and crops and will continue taking pictures in the same area to show crop stages of growth.



I coordinated **Progressive Agriculture Safety Day** for 94 area youth in partnership with the local WIFE (Women Involved in Farm Economics), Emergency Management, Farm Bureau, Fortify Group, and Fillmore Central, Exeter-Milligan-Friend and Shickley FFA Chapters. The event for youth who completed 1st to 6th grades provided hands-on activities for youth on a variety of topics from food safety to electrical safety to underground utility safety. Forty-two high school youth and adults volunteered over 315 hours. Youth evaluations (n=81) show that youth enjoyed electrical and animal safety the most. As a result of Ag Safety Day, many youth reported they will not touch powerlines and stay

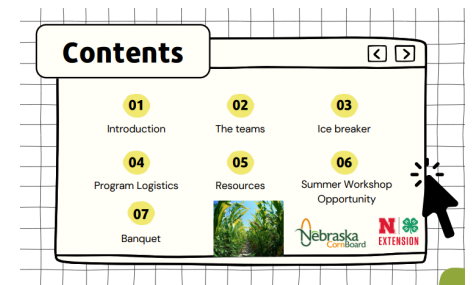




away from them. One youth reporting they will “force my dad to wear his seat belt” and another said “force my mom and dad to not be on their phones” (when driving). 78% of volunteers reported they learned something new and 70% plan to implement changes at home. 100% of volunteers thought Ag Safety Day was somewhat or very effective in making children safer.

The **North Central Integrated Pest Management team** received another grant for pollinator education. As one of the collaborators, we met to continue outreach with our lessons. The **Nebraska Environmental Education** state work team is considering adopting this as one of the signature programs. I have been working with Iowa State to bring live monarch butterflies to the Nebraska State Fair for the Largest Classroom activities. I am trying to grow milkweed to feed the butterflies should this work with permitting, etc.

Three teams participated in the **Innovative Youth Corn Challenge** orientation which I led. New this year will be the addition of a 360-degree and time-elapsed camera to use for documenting the team’s plots throughout the growing season. Fifty market lambs were weighed in at the Sheep Weigh-In.



Lead Educator & Professional Development

I work on the NAE4-HYDP Diversity Committee, and we are launching the “I Belong” award opportunity for youth. As a member of the **NCEA** professional improvement committee, our subcommittee met, and we secured a keynote and workshop speaker for the NCEA fall conference in November. I met with Becky Fouard with On The Rise Group to clarify topics for the conference.

I met with a new **Master Gardener**, Jody Gartner who is very excited and helpful in volunteering her hours for the office. After meeting with her, she was extremely helpful with leading the mulching effort of our 4-H community garden. I lined up help from a 4-H club and delivery of the mulch and the garden and raised beds were mulched to help control weeds. Educational activities were shared on a **Lead Educator** update which will be helpful to use during extension board meetings.

News Columns: Celebrate Beef Month, Beginner Crop Scouting Training, Inspiring Rich Conversations Through Questions, Youth Crop Scouting Competition