



## August/September 2020 Narrative Report

### Upcoming Events:

- October 1<sup>st</sup> – NASA Project Planning
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Social Media Tips & Tricks webinar
- October 5<sup>th</sup> – Promotion Committee mtg
- October 6<sup>th</sup> – Wellness in Tough Times mtg., NCEA conference committee planning, Save the Kid webinar
- October 7<sup>th</sup> – Coaching with EZC
- October 8<sup>th</sup> – CWF Update
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Field Trip planning, Drone meeting.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> – Clover Kids
- October 15<sup>th</sup> – 4-H Mental Wellness webinar
- October 15<sup>th</sup> – Garden TOOLS with Corn project
- October 16<sup>th</sup> – NCEA Board mtg., Ag Innovator program
- October 19<sup>th</sup> – Clay Co 4-H Council
- October 20-22 – NAE4-HA Conference
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> – APEN (Australia Extension) presentation on WTT
- October 27- Extension Wellness Programming, Mars Basecamp
- October 28<sup>th</sup> – Ag Safety Day Training
- October 29<sup>th</sup> – The Four of Moving Forward Training, Technology in the Early Years webinars
- October 30<sup>th</sup> – NE 4-H Section mtg.

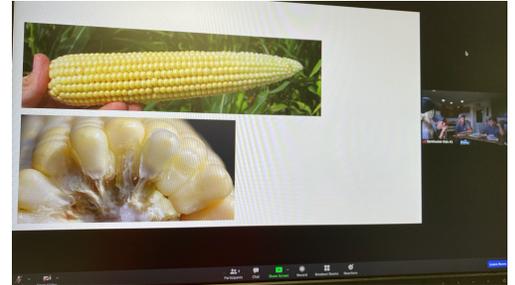
Brandy VanDeWalle

Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

### Crops – Youth (STEM-career team)

I led and facilitated the 5<sup>th</sup> annual **Regional Youth Crop Scouting Competition** which was done virtually this year. I worked with a team of UNL, MN, KY and IA Extension agronomists to provide this opportunity to six teams from KY, UNL, MN and IA.

Youth were very appreciative of this opportunity. Evaluation results are still being tabulated.



### STEM-Careers

I continued work on the **NASA proposal** that would allow Nebraska youth the opportunity to interact with NASA astronauts on the International Space Station. I am developing lessons and activities for elementary youth. A train-the-trainer program will be held to reach extension staff and teachers.

In September, our virtual **Nebraska Virtual Science Field trip** team continued our series of virtual programs every other week. These have been well-received and are archived for teachers and youth to watch after the live event.

As co-leader of the STEM-careers team, I coordinate the monthly meetings and work to move our subcommittees forward. I transitioned our teams' documents into the Microsoft Teams app.

### 4-H Youth Development

This year, I facilitated the judging of the agronomy, weed science and range exhibits at the **Nebraska state fair**. While actual ribbon placings were not given, top exhibits and special recognition



was provided to youth. I also assisted with breeding beef check-in by serving as breeding beef data entry coordinator.

Rachel and I coordinated the annual **AgVenture Day** virtually. We modified the program to reach approximately 150 fourth graders from schools in Clay, Fillmore, Nuckolls and Thayer county schools. We taught the program online via zoom, created educational kits/packets for the teachers to distribute to students and even arranged for sack lunches to be delivered to youth a day prior to the event. Teachers were appreciative for their youth to participate in this event.

I participated in a training titled, **Project Learning Tree - Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood**. I received curriculum that teaches Clover Kid aged youth basic outdoor educational skills and used some of the lessons at a Clover Kid program. Youth learned about shapes that are around us in the outdoors and made their own sidewalk chalk to take home.

Farm to School webinars are being held to teach youth basic agricultural literacy pieces and incorporating it into the schools through a national program

I connected with 4-H staff in Hawaii on a virtual reality agricultural series.

## **Professional Development/Unit Leader/Wellness in Tough Times**

Sarah Paisley, extension educator and I were asked to present virtually at the **Volunteer Conference of Southern States 2020** conference on the virtual field trip efforts our Nebraska Extension team created.

I participated in the annual **National Association of County Agricultural Agents** professional improvement conference virtually and received a lot of great ideas to incorporate into future programming.

I was nominated to serve on the statewide agricultural **promotion committee**. I completed the training for that and reviewed colleagues' files that were submitted for promotion.

As President-Elect of **NCEA**, I continue working with the NCEA executive board on issues impacting NCEA members. I also serve on the NCEA professional improvement conference committee which is planning for a virtual conference format this fall.

Wellness in Tough Times team regrouped, and I am serving as the community engagement contact for Lynch and Stuart with the flooding recovery efforts.