



February 2019 Narrative Report

Upcoming Events:

March 11th – Clay County Extension Board Mtg.

March 12th – Leadership Wayne Presentation via Zoom

March 14th – Farmers & Ranchers College, Gate to Plate, Lazy Horse

March 15th – Mtg with FCDC Director

March 18th – NELD Co-hort meeting, Staff Meeting

March 19th – Odegeo Leadership Presentation & 4-H Achievement Awards Zoom

March 20th – Inventure Day

March 21st – Clover Kid Mtg., Fillmore Co.

March 25th – Mental First Aid Training & Extension Board Mtg.

March 26th – Farm Stress – Planning Mtg.

March 27th – Leaders Issue Team Retreat

March 28th – Regional Crop Scouting Mtg., Clay County Staff Coaching Sessions, Clover Kid Mtg. – Clay County

March 31st – Animal Science Day

Brandy VanDeWalle

Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

Crops – Innovative Cropping Systems

The February Farmers & Ranchers College program, **Managing Land in the 21st Century** was held with thirty people in attendance. Extension educators with a focus in ag economics, crops and livestock provided strategies for managing land in today's difficult economic climate.

In addition I co-taught **private pesticide safety education** with Michael Sindelar in Geneva and taught an evening program as well, reaching a total of 69 producers. In addition, Michael and I offered four **Annie's Inspired** programs in Fillmore, Clay, Nuckolls, and Thayer counties. Unfortunately, the only program that had enough participation was held in Geneva with five women whom participated. Michael provided a presentation on soils and I provided strategies on dealing with stress in today's agricultural climate.

Crops – Youth (STEM-career team)

I promoted the **Innovative Youth Corn Challenge** program through mail correspondence, social media, radio and appearing on Pure Nebraska t.v. show. The STEM careers team has a sub-committee that is working to integrate technology tools in gardening. I will be participating in the group with ways to utilize the tools in our community garden and raised beds.

4-H Youth Development

I finishing teaching **College and Career Readiness** lessons to the Exeter-Milligan sixth graders. Youth completed the program by creating a collage indicating their short, medium and long-term goals and reflecting on potential career pathways. I taught seven Council members and 4-H club leaders on the essential elements of positive youth development at the **annual in-service**. We focused



on what is required for a safe emotional and physical environment by brainstorming how to ensure our programs are safe and reading through a case study using dominos to indicate when the character in the story faced a negative interaction in his day. We hosted an Open House during the **NU Charter Day** and recognized Fillmore County youth for receiving college scholarships.

I started the **Clover Kids workshops** for 2019 with twelve youth creating buttons, mirrors or magnets utilizing the Library Innovation Studio equipment. Parents signed up for days to bring refreshments and youth shared what excited them in 4-H. I helped the Geneva Public Library staff with the Innovation Studio open house. A Fillmore and Clay county 4-H planning meeting helped us organize and plan workshop dates.



I also presented at **Fillmore County Government Day** teaching youth what extension programs provide.



Professional Development or Organizational Citizenship

I was one of five Nebraska Extension faculty chosen to participate in the 2019 **National Extension Leadership Development (NELD)** program for the North Central states. The purpose of NELD is to provide Extension professionals the opportunity to learn, apply and reflect on new effective leadership, organizational collaboration and change concepts and strategies. At the Chicago session, I met 34 other extension professionals. The goal of this session is to develop a better understanding of myself, enhance personal effectiveness through assessments, coaching, feedback, individual goal setting and strategies for processing and managing information leading to results.

As Unit Leader, I participated in **the Nebraska Association of County Extension Board** Annual meeting to learn about legislative updates. I also was privileged to see Alexis Schmidt awarded the Outstanding Young Adult award for her work at the extension office and as a volunteer over the past several years.

The **Fillmore County Development Corporation** annual banquet was held in Shickley and I arranged for Jason Weigel, CVI extension educator to present on his programming efforts in the area and what he can offer the area. I was also recognized for serving on the FCDC Board for 11 years.

News Columns/Blogs

Crop Clinic, Innovative Youth Corn Challenge Results, Gate to Plate, N150 Charter Day