



February 2021 Narrative Report

Brandy VanDeWalle

Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

Upcoming Events:

Mar. 1st – Staff Planning mtg.,
Fillmore Co Extension Board

Mar. 2nd – Wellness in Tough
Times youth mtg.

Mar. 3rd – Zone 10 4-H mtg., Ag
Safety Day mtg.

Mar. 4th – Convo with 4-H
Coordinators, Creating Emergency
Plans, Performance Evaluation

Mar. 5th Ag Tours VR mtg.

Mar. 8th – Wellness in Tough Times
mtg., Garden TOOLS for Corn mtg.

Mar. 9th Extension Employee
Wellness mtg., Huddle

Mar. 10th NCEA Prof. Improv. Mtg.,
Garden TOOLS for Corn Follow-up

Mar. 11th – Performance Evals –
Rachel and Holly

Mar. 16th – Zone 10 Connection

Mar. 17th – MARC Field Trip

Mar. 18th – Psychosocial
Development &

Social-Emotional Learning, Fanning
the Flame, Clay Co Clover Kids,
Holli A. performance review

Mar. 19th – NCEA Board mtg.

Mar. 21st – 4-H Volunteer Training
Mar. 23rd Rural Wellness work
group

Mar. 25th – Fillmore Co Clover Kids,
4-H Council

Mar. 31st – Fanning the Flame

Crops – Youth & STEM

Extension professionals from Iowa, Minnesota, Kentucky, Indiana and I met to plan for a 2021 **regional crop scouting competition**. We brainstormed ways to enhance our state competitions and likely will have the regional competition virtually in September 2021. Members of this team have also received a grant for future pollinator programming which will be planned this summer.

In collaboration with Drs. Keshwani & Ingram, I have been helping with the **Garden TOOLS for Corn** professional development program for youth development professionals. Follow-up sessions featured how to code microbits with the next steps to share curriculum and lessons for school programming, workshops, etc.

As co-leader of the **STEM-careers team**, I connected our team to the IANR Science Literacy team. Rich discussion led to future partnerships and program collaboration.



4-H Youth Development & Ag Literacy

Fanning the Flame cohort met with Dr. Lodl and started reading the book, “Change Your Questions: Change Your Life”. This powerful book challenges one to think with a growth mindset and how to ask questions that can lead one to success both personally and professionally.

Locally, Rachel and I have met with the Fillmore Central wellness committee and are planning a middle school health fair to prepare youth for testing and ways their health impacts their scores.



All Nebraska 4-H faculty/staff participated in a 2-day virtual **conference** which focused on a new positive youth development model and ways to be more inclusive in our programming. I serve on a 4-H Diversity committee where we are planning ways to help staff and members find ways to be more inclusive.

Unit Leader, Professional Development & Cropping Systems

I co-presented to over 50 extension board members and staff during the annual **Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards**. My presentation shared strategies for recruiting and engaging board members. I pre-recorded a session, “You can Stress-Less” for the **Women in Ag conference** which was held virtually. I also participated in the keynote which featured Elaine Froese on family farm transitioning. I had the chance to have her in Fillmore County years ago, so we were able to reconnect and share rural wellness resources. I led an **Extension Wellness Friday** conversation on ways to improve your productivity and effectiveness.

As **President** of the **Nebraska Association of Cooperative Extension**, I have planned to lead monthly meetings with the board to continue moving NCEA forward.

News Columns/Blogs

- Feb. 3rd – Women in Ag Conference
- Feb. 10th – Innovative Youth Corn Challenge
- Feb. 17th – On-Farm Research Network
- Feb. 24th – Houseplants

