



June/July 2020 Narrative Report

Upcoming Events:

August 4th – Regional YCSC Planning

August 6th – NASA Proposal Project Planning

August 11th – Clay County Extension Board

August 12th – Zone 10 Connection

August 17th – Ag Venture Day Planning

August 18th – STEM Careers Update

August 23rd – Self-Care COVID Zoom

August 26th – Haul Static exhibits to State Fair

August 27th – Judge State Fair Agronomy exhibits

August 28-30th – Assist with livestock at state fair

September 8th – Haul State Fair exhibits back

Brandy VanDeWalle

Extension Educator, Fillmore & Clay Counties

Crops – Youth (STEM-career team)

I led and facilitated the 6th annual Nebraska Youth Crop Scouting Competition

which was done virtually this year. I worked with a team of UNL

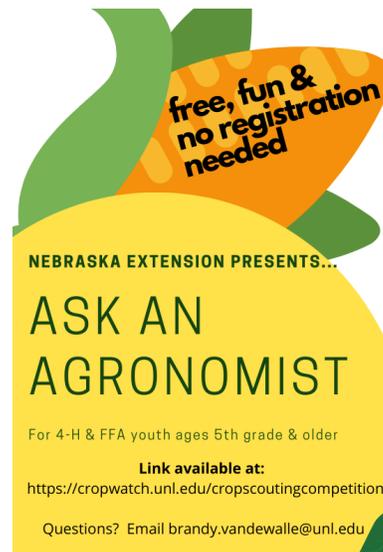
Extension agronomists to not only judge the online format, but we also provided two “Ask an Agronomist”

sessions which provided youth the opportunity to learn more about the content that would be asked in addition to

asking any questions in preparation for the competition. Four teams participated and I will be working to coordinate an online regional competition in August.

STEM-Careers

I coordinated the annual **Excellence in Ag Sciences Day** which provided about 32 Nebraska ag teachers the opportunity to learn and explore gaming simulations. Teachers explored interactive games and online resources to understand the complex systems involved in the food system, preparing students to make future personal decisions related to sustainability. Games explored were Prairie Protector which focused on the control of red cedar trees, Agpocalypse as a grassland scenario and Loopy which is a web-based modeling program.



BRING A SAMPLE, PICTURE OR JUST CURIOSITY WITH YOU!

July 22nd learn about Weeds, Growth Staging & General Scouting Info
July 23rd learn about insects and diseases
-Starts at 6 pm (cst) both days





I was asked to assist in a proposal that would allow Nebraska youth the opportunity to interact with NASA astronauts on the International Space Station; more details will be shared in August.

4-H Youth Development

Continued planning for the blended fair was done with multiple meetings to ensure safe county fairs were conducted. Both Clay and Fillmore **County Fairs** were successfully held as a result of numerous hours of planning by staff and volunteers.

I offered a **Clover Kid** "Design Decisions" workshop to youth in both a live zoom format and created a lesson for youth to complete on their own time. The lesson provided youth the opportunity to create a decorated picture frame using fiber arts. The workshop is posted on the fillmore.unl.edu website.

In collaboration with Aaron Nygren and Amy Timmerman, we taught a **Living Room Learning** online program that focused on crop production. Specifically, youth created their own corn plant with various supplies around the house and then learned the functions of each plant part and basic corn growth processes.

Professional Development/Unit Leader/Wellness in Tough Times

I taught a session on mental health and stress management techniques at the virtual **Nebraska Career Education** conference held in June. I have also started gathering literature on mental health resources available for youth in order to provide programming focused on youth and youth educators. I participated in a mental health wellness program that revealed research conducted in collaboration with the National 4-H Council.

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.

As **Unit Leader**, I worked with our engagement zone coordinator on ensuring UNL employees could return to the workplace for a smooth transition. I worked with staff to put together budgets for both counties.

News Columns/Blogs

June 3rd – Mosquitoes

June 17th – County Fair Plans

July 1st – Youth Crop Scouting

July 22nd – Teamwork

June 10th – Youth Grief

June 24th – County Fair Schedule

July 8th – Fairs and Sportsmanship

July 29th – Back to School & COVID-19