



May 2020 Narrative Report

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Upcoming Events:

June 1st – NCEA Ag Section, Fillmore Co. 4-H Council Mtg.

June 2nd – WTT mtg

June 3rd – Clay Co. Staff mtg. & Zone 10 mtg.

June 4th – 4-H Convo with Coordinators, Clay Co. 4-H Council mtg.

June 8th – NCE virtual conference presenter, Livestock Auction Committee mtg.

June 9th – Fillmore Co. Staff Readiness mtg., Fair Board mtg.

June 10th – YCSC Judge mtg.

June 12th – NCEA Board mtg.

June 15th – Fillmore Ext. Board mtg

June 16th – WTT mtg

June 17th – 4-H Council mtg.

June 18th – Convo w/ 4-H Coordinators, NCEA conf com. Mtg, Clover Kid workshop

June 22nd – STEM Careers leadership mtg.,

June 23rd – Clay Co. Supervisors, YCSC mtg.

June 25th – Ag Sciences Day conf.

June 29th – NCEA Farewell to Chuck

Crops – Youth (STEM-career team)

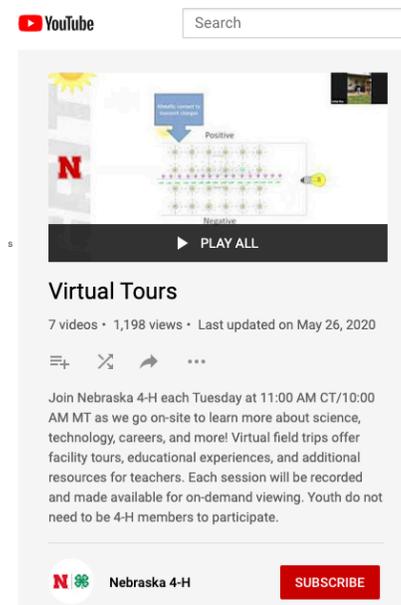
I led and facilitated a **weeds workshop for participants in the Innovative Youth Corn Challenge and local 4-H youth.** I partnered with Todd Boller, Fillmore County weed superintendent. The presentation gave youth an understanding of basic plant identification, noxious weeds in Nebraska and managing them.

STEM-Careers

I arranged and moderated a **virtual field trip** on Biofuels. I worked with Flint Hills Resources to provide 31 youth the opportunity to learn about the ethanol manufacturing process and careers in that field. Students also learned how Flint Hills transforms farmers' corn to create useful fuel and animal feed products for consumers in Nebraska and around the world.

Our STEM careers **virtual field trip** team met and will be providing four virtual field trips this summer. The first one featured NE Game & Parks service at Wildcat Hills. Youth learned about Big Horn Sheep that live in the area by Gering and what a career as a biologist entails.

As **STEM-careers co-leader**, I've been working to keep the team engaged on projects which has been challenging with so many staff needing to focus on revamping county fairs.





4-H Youth Development

Like all other 4-H extension staff, numerous zoom meetings were held to explore virtual livestock/small animal showcases and static showcase options and plan how to facilitate a virtual, modified face-to-face or blended fair model. Many options have been discussed and both Fillmore and Clay counties met with council members, fair board members and superintendents to determine ways a face-to-face livestock show can occur.

I offered a **Clover Kid** gardening workshop to youth in both a live zoom format and created a lesson for youth to complete on their own time. The workshop is posted on the fillmore.unl.edu website.

Clover Kids

VEGETABLE GARDENING 101

Learn from a story about a hardworking and resourceful rabbit and a lazy bear as they explore "Tops & Bottoms" of plants we eat. First [read the story](#). Then, you can plant a seed or plant you have and exhibit it at fair. (Note: if you want to plant in a pot, you can bring the whole pot to fair as a clover kid.)

Activity: Choose your favorite vegetable or fruit. Pretend you are the seed of that fruit/vegetable and you have a furry animal friend (squirrel, opossum, rabbit - any animal you choose) who is willing to help you search and find the perfect new home for you to grow into a healthy plant. Tell your furry friend where you need to live. Where would you live? Would you need shade or sunlight? How deep would you need to be planted? How much water do you need?

Gardening Educational Poster (can make and enter at fair)

Create a poster explaining what you learned about plant parts that are edible. You can use the story to tell about "tops and bottoms" or you could describe what you know about the seed or plant you are going to plant.

Materials needed: Participants will need access to seeds (and a seed label telling how deep to plant, etc.) to plant, poster board OR paper, markers/colors, pencil. (optional: [printout](#) to help make a poster)



Professional Development/Unit Leader/Community Engagement

I participated in weather spotter training to be help become more weather-ready. also participated in a quarterly meeting Fillmore County LFAC meeting between FSA, NRCS and Extension to better collaborate among the agencies.

I completed **Question, Persuade, Refer** online training through Iowa State University. The training's mission is to reduce suicidal behaviors and save lives by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training. The signs of crisis are all around us. Quality education empowers all people, regardless of their background, to make a positive difference in the life of someone they know.

As President-Elect of **NCEA**, I have been meeting with the NCEA executive board on organizational bylaws and issues impacting NCEA members. I also serve on the NCEA professional improvement conference which plans our fall conference and have been helping identify speakers.

As **Unit Leader**, I've been trying to keep everyone up-to-date by having office check-ins via zoom. As a staff, we've been adapting to online delivery options and communicating with 4-H'er and their families on the COVID-19 situation as it impacts programming. I worked with both Clay and Fillmore County offices to complete the office readiness checklist for allowing UNL staff to re-enter the extension offices.

News Columns/Blogs

May 6th – Creating Routine

May 13th – Biggest Grower Contest

May 20th – Tractor Safety Courses

May 27th – 4-H Fair Response & Bagworms

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