

Narrative Report - Summer/Fall

4-H-

This year has been a challenge for everyone to say the least. COVID-19 has thrown a wrench and many plans and trying to keep up with the 4-Hers of Fillmore County using a virtual platform has been hard as well.

This summer we put together “workshop in a bag”, youth had several choices of workshops to pick from to complete. Along with the supplies, youth had a video or detailed direction to follow for the project they were completing.

We also did a series of live workshops with surrounding counties. Every Friday a 4-H youth professional would log on to zoom and engaged with the youth for a project. I lead a workshop where youth made a rug out of t-shirt rags.

After a much planning from 4-H Council, Ag Society and Extension staff we were able to pull off a safe and successful Fillmore County Fair. The Nebraska State Fair was also a great way to honor the youth for the hard work they put in to all their projects even with the adverse conditions that was set before them.

School Enrichment/Workshops-

This year as youth were sent home and teachers started to scramble for option, the embryology team leaped into action to put together virtual options for teachers. I was asked to help record a segment for teachers so they still could participate in the project.

For the National STEM day, the lesson this year was all about Mars. We put together two flights of three days of lessons. Every Tuesday for three weeks at a time we learned about the planet Mars, built mini rovers, and played a card game based on the premise of how we would grow crops on Mars. This was a successful way that we interact with 4-H and non-4-H youth on a face to face and virtual platform.

We also able to put together a virtual field trip for AgVenture Day including a sack lunch, t-shirts (like normal) and a kit of learning supplies for the activities that we were able to do with the youth.

Brandy I also taught the Positively Popcorn lesson virtually for Fillmore Central’s first grade classes. We were able to interact and team teach this lesson that has a focus on ag literacy (seed to snack) and STEM (changing states of matter).

Professional Development-

Throughout the pandemic extension leadership has been very good at providing professional development. Regular check ins with zone 10, the 4-H coordinators, and the interim associate dean has been great to stay connected with colleagues.

Fall Conference and NCEA Conference was held virtually this year. We learned about how to stay connected with clients using zoom. We also talked about challenges surrounding diversity in our county and communities. One session was learning about laughing and the impact it has on the brain. We even did laughing exercises that we learned from a certified laughter coach.