



Upcoming Events:

- November 2nd - Consumer Confidence Issue Team Webinar
- November 2nd - 4-H Growth Webinar
- November 2nd - Extension Board Meeting
- November 3rd - NCEA Strategic Planning Webinar
- November 4th - Pesticide Safety Ed In-service, Kearney
- November 6th - Fillmore Co. Health Fair
- November 9th - Staff Meeting
- November 9th - Consumer Confidence Webinar & Water & Soil Resources Webinar
- November 11th -13th - NCEA/State Extension Conference, Kearney
- November 14th - FFA Pathways to Career Conference, Grand Island
- November 15th - 4-H Fall Party
- November 17th - Cornhusker Economic Outlook Conference, York
- November 20th - Science Literacy Grants Conversation, Lincoln
- November 23rd - North Central Youth Crop Scouting Competition meeting
- November 23rd - State 4-H Livestock ID Webinar
- November 24th - HR4AG meeting
- November 25th - Field to Market mtg
- November 26th - Thayer/Nuckolls Co Office Manager Interviews
- December 3-5th - Regional NSTA Conference, Kansas City

Narrative Report - October 2015

Brandy VanDeWalle, Extension Educator
Fillmore County

Crops for the Future

Crops & Risk Management

Planning for the annual *Farmers & Ranchers College* programming continued, with a large amount of time facilitating program sponsorship and communication with donors. Programs will be Dec. 15th with Dr. David Kohl on Positioning Your Business for Success, January 20th the Cow/Calf College and March 14th with Dr. Ron Hanson on Overcoming Challenges with Succession Planning for Families.

As a member of the **HR4AG (Human Resources for Ag)**, I worked with team members to create a curriculum outline for two sections of the programming: teamwork and communication.

Nebraska Extension hosted a **Climate Resiliency** professional development workshop that I participated. Scientific facts and strategies for preparing clientele with climate variability were presented. An Extension team will be working on this issue, as we remain proactive in our approach for dealing with this concern. In addition, one of the keys to success in this area is to not only explaining scientific facts and evidence and interpreting those implications to citizens, but how communication is relayed. The social sciences will play an important role, just as it is in explaining genetically modified organisms to the general public.

I presented to twenty-one participants in the **Hastings Leadership program** on agricultural leadership opportunities and leadership styles to exert within their organizations.

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SUMMARY OF POSTER PRESENTED:

Excellence in Ag Sciences Day has grown from 8-10 instructors annually in 2006 to 75-100 instructors in recent years. Since 2011, grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust have provided over \$300,000 in funds.

Each year an overall theme is featured. In 2013-15, irrigation and water was the focus; specifically ag irrigation, water wise landscape management and water quality. Teachers were given irrigation management and water quality test kits to utilize in their curriculum.

Crops for the Future - Youth

I presented a poster at the **National Groundwater Conference**. The poster was titled, "Educating the Next Generation on Irrigation Management through Excellence in Ag Sciences Day." Jay Famiglietti, Hydrologist from University of California Irvine and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Senior Water Scientist presented on water sustainability with huge implications for the global groundwater crisis occurring. Mogens Bay, Chairman & CEO of Valmont Industries provided thought provoking information on the need to conserve and protect groundwater resources for future generations. Finally, Naty Barak with Netafirm, from Israel shared how a coordinated water policy was adopted to achieve a sustainable water economy and society in his area.

4-H Youth Development & Youth Ag Literacy

I facilitated **Green Team and Strang 4-Bar-H club meetings**. In addition to having a short meeting, we decorated pumpkins to display in the window for National 4-H Week. Thirteen pumpkins were decorated by 4-H'ers and voted on by viewers. Small prizes were given to 1-3rd place pumpkins.

Career Portfolios were judged for Thayer/Nuckolls Counties and preparation for the Fall Party also occurred. Holly and I worked to cover **the 4-H programming** in the absence of a 4-H Extension Assistant. In addition, a meeting with Unit Leaders from Nuckolls/Thayer & Clay Counties was held with Fillmore County to see how we can combine our resources and offer more 4-H and youth programming opportunities for area youth.

Professional & Organizational, & Community Development

Kayla Colgrove, Nutrition & Health Extension Educator from Gage County presented a **Lunch and Learn program** at the hospital for **Fillmore County Hospital** staff.

The **Eastern Extension District fall conference** was held which focused on teamwork and developing new and improved relationships with coworkers from across district lines. Tim Miles was the featured speaker and was very motivational and dynamic.

News Columns

October 7th - National 4-H Week
October 21st - Farmers & Ranchers College

October 14th - Soybean Cyst Nematode Sampling
October 28th - Does Science & Research Matter?