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**4-H Family Newsletter**  
Nebraska Extension in Madison County  
1305 South 13 Street  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
Phone: 402-370-4040  
Website: [www.madison.unl.edu](http://www.madison.unl.edu)



April 2020

**WELCOME TO 4-H  
IN MADISON COUNTY!**

**ENVISION A 20/20**



**FUTURE WITH 4-H**

4-H Families,

We are so glad you joined the 4-H family in Madison County! Thank you for your patience and understanding as our office availability has become limited lately. Please utilize the temporary drop box, which is available during business hours (8 to 5). Please call the Extension Office at 402-370-4040 or e-mail any of us. During this time of uncertainty, Madison County 4-H would like to offer any support to your family possible. Whether you need ideas for keeping your children occupied or are looking for up-to-date information, do not hesitate to contact us!

Sincerely,

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LEARNING IS FUN

## Virtual and At-Home Learning

<https://4h.unl.edu/virtual-home-learning>

The Optum Emotional Support Help Line at **1-866-342-6892** is free of charge and available to anyone, so you can share it with family and friends. Caring professionals will connect people to resources. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



## National Volunteer Week: April 19-25, 2020

### *A Leader by Anonymous*

I went on a search to become a leader.

I searched high and low. I spoke with authority. People listened. But alas, there was one who was wiser than I, and they followed that individual.

I sought to inspire confidence, but the crowd responded, "Why should I trust you?"

I postured, and I assumed the look of leadership with a countenance that flowed with confidence and pride. But many passed me by and never noticed my air of elegance.

I ran ahead of the others, pointed the way to new heights. I demonstrated that I knew the route to greatness. And then I looked back, and I was alone.

"What shall I do?" I queried. "I've tried hard and used all that I know." And I sat down and pondered long.

And then, I listened to the voices around me. I heard what the group was trying to accomplish. And I rolled up my sleeves and joined in the work.

facebook 

### Nebraska Extension in Madison County Facebook

"LIKE" and "SHARE" our Facebook page to keep up with updates, events, and opportunities!

<https://www.facebook.com/UNLMadisonCounty/>



## SCIENCE & AG FAMILY FIELD DAY

Save the Date:  
August 5, 2020

Bring the family out for a day at the Haskell Ag Lab. Discover what's going on at the farm through demonstrations, Tours, presentations and displays. Don't forget to stay for a free lunch! Activities will be going on all day.

As we worked, I asked, "Are we all together in what we want to do and how to get the job done?"

And we thought together, and we fought together, and we struggled towards our goal.

I found myself encouraging the fainthearted. I sought the ideas of those too shy to speak out. I taught those who had little skill. I praised those who worked hard. When our task was completed, one of the group turned to me and said, "This would not have been done but for your leadership."

At first, I said, "I didn't lead. I just worked with the rest." And then I understood, leadership is not a goal. It's a way to reaching a goal.

I lead the best when I help others to go where we've decided to go. I lead best when I help others to use themselves creatively. I lead best when I forget about myself as leader and focus on my group...their needs and their goals.

To lead is to serve...to give...to achieve together.

## Camper Reservations at the Fair

Camper spot reservations open to 4-H families on **Monday, June 1** at 8:00 a.m. To reserve your camper spot, call the Madison County Fair Office at 402-454-2144.



You must pay at time of reservation; camper spots are \$125 for the week of fair. Credit cards will be accepted; a transaction fee will be applied.

## Citizenship Washington Focus 2021

Youth between the ages of 14 and 18 on or before December 31, 2020, should have received a letter in the mail regarding the Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) trip. If you did not receive this mailing or would like more information, please contact Sarah or Kristen at 402370-4040.



Tentative trip dates are June 10 through June 19, 2021. Initial registration sheet and down payment is due to Wayne county on or before Friday, May 1.

## 2020 Teen Tractor Safety Training

All youth ages 14 and 15 who work on a farm or ranch other than their own **MUST** be certified through a Hazardous Occupations Course to obtain a Farm Husbandry Permit or "farm permit" without further testing. Successful completion of the course will allow trained youth to operate a tractor over 20 horsepower and connect or disconnect an implement or any of its parts to or from a tractor. See more at [go.unl.edu/tractorsafety](https://go.unl.edu/tractorsafety)



Wayne County is hosting a Teen Tractor Safety Training May 28 and 29 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. Cost of instruction, materials, and lunches is \$60.

To register, please call 402-375-3310. You must register one week in advance; minimum of ten students or the class will be cancelled.

## 4-H Camp Scholarships

Think ahead to summer—attend a 4-H camp! Check out the camps at <https://4h.unl.edu/camps-centers/summer-camp>



We believe that every young life should be enriched by the camp experience, and we want to make camp an opportunity for all youth. With the support of the Nebraska 4-H Foundation and its donors, a limited number of \$100 camp scholarships to support the participation of young people at the Nebraska 4-H Summer Camps are available. Single Day camps are not eligible for camp scholarships.

Camp Scholarships must be awarded prior to registration. Any scholarships awarded after the registration process will not be applied to current registrations. Register at <https://4h.unl.edu/camps-centers/summer-camp/scholarship>

## Project Add / Delete: May 1

You have until May 1 to add or delete project divisions to your 4-H Online profile. Simply login in and make changes or contact Kristen to add or delete projects for you.

After May 1, the county fair pre-entry forms will be generated. You will receive notification when they are ready to be picked up from the Extension Office.

*A question on everyone's minds is will there be a county fair? No decisions have yet been made, but we remain hopeful! Stay tuned.*



## DID YOU KNOW?

CHECK OUT THE LISTING OF 150+ MAJORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN.

GO TO [HTTPS://GO.UNL.EDU/NEBRASKAMAJORS](https://go.unl.edu/nebraskamajors)

Dear Madison County 4-H Families,

My favorite memories as a Madison County 4-H member were the late nights sewing with my mom, learning her tricks and trades. It was haltering up my calf when dad said not to, but my mom said try it! It was chasing that calf all over the yard and realizing that maybe I should have listened to my dad (as mom was laughing). It was baking cookies and putting in one cup of salt rather than one teaspoon. It was learning how to serve as an officer, writing the minutes of our meeting and seeing them published in our local paper. It was cleaning the barns and waiting for the feeder pigs to arrive. It was learning that 4-H impacted me more than I ever imagined.

So, in these uncharted times, I know there are many thoughts and questions around the 4-H program and whether there is going to be a fair. Should I purchase and halter break my animals? Should I put work into a project that might not be judged? Well, I wanted to share my thoughts...

Is the Madison County Fair the “Best Week in July?” Absolutely! Do we have the best fair board that truly cares about the 4-H program and creates an amazing experience for our 4-H’ers? Absolutely we do! Is the fair the only part of the 4-H program? Absolutely not.

The 4-H program is a yearlong experience where youth are empowered to “Make the Best Better,” an experience that builds lifelong skills, an organization that really is not an organization but more like a family. A family that works together, plays together, competes together, learns together, and loves together. 4-H is more than the county fair, more than a summer workshops, and more than a camp. 4-H is instilled in our hearts! Even though each of those parts play an important role in developing a passion for the program we all love 4-H is MORE! Projects such as painting, sculpting, baking, sewing, quilting, raising animals and livestock, public speaking, building rockets and robots, redesigning rooms, food preparation, gardening, woodworking, taking amazing photos, and more produce amazing opportunities for our youth! They are opportunities that might even lead to their future careers! These projects are at our fingertips this very moment. Virtually, there are so many 4-H opportunities that are simply amazing! 4-H is not defined by a specific ribbon or trophy but by what we learn, what we strive to achieve, and what we love. It’s the hard work put into the 4-H slogan “learn by doing.”

So, when thinking about your 4-H projects this year, let us focus on what our children will learn from their experiences, not receiving a ribbon color. Their memories will be built around spending time with their family and learning a trade or a tradition, breaking that breeding heifer together, refinishing that family heirloom, or even learning to make grandma’s famous apple pie!

Again, the question in many of our minds with the situation at hand... *Will we have a fair this year?*

**I sure hope so!** Fair is a celebration of the experiences and opportunities our youth have and a time to showcase all of their talent! Unfortunately, we do not have answers at this time. So please embrace the 4-H program and enjoy the adventure and memories it provides!

Cherish the moments, stay healthy, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Sarah Polacek  
Madison County 4-H Assistant

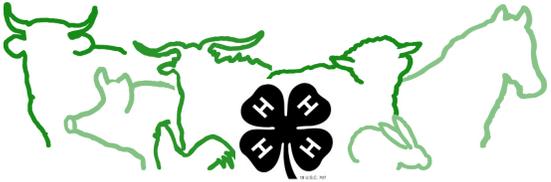


*4-H is about more than the ribbons and awards.*

*It's about the PEOPLE, the Experiences, the Life-Long Skills, the Memories!*

*It's about being a role model, learning while doing, giving back and*

***MAKING THE BEST BETTER***



# 4-H Livestock News

## State Fair Market Beef Deadline

State Fair Market Beef nomination deadline has been extended to **June 3** to coincide with all other species. This deadline will be for all 4-H and FFA County and State Fair animals.

We hope this change will help support many of our families who are making decisions in regard to summer events.

If interested in exhibiting at Ak-Sar-Ben, visit:

<https://www.aksarbenstockshow.com>



## YQCA ONLINE FLASH SALE April 1-30

Get a 25% discount during April! Complete your certification online for just \$9.00 per exhibitor! Request must be submitted to [sales@yqca.org](mailto:sales@yqca.org) for coupon order form.

*All youth 4-H age 8 and up:*

To show livestock at the Madison County Fair, Nebraska State Fair, and/or Ak-Sar-Ben, you must complete Youth Quality Assurance.

See instructions for completing YCQA in the March newsletter.



## Fair Books

Call 402-370-4040 before coming to the office and we will place a fair book placed in drop box for you! The entire document is also available online at <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/madison/2020%204-H%20Fairbook.pdf>

## Ear Tags / Identification

Available at the Extension Office; please call ahead with your request and we will put them in the drop box for you.

- Required for market beef, sheep, goats, swine, exotic animals, bucket calves
- Tattoos required for breeding beef and rabbits
- County-only tags: \$1.00
- EID tags (State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben) \$2.00
- All sheep and goats require scrapie tags

## Livestock Affidavits / ID Sheets

- Required for all livestock and small animals
- Can request copies be put in the drop box or print from [madison.unl.edu](http://madison.unl.edu)
- Return with picture that captures distinguishable markings (for horse, dairy, etc.) or legible ear tag

## Bucket Calf Record Books

- Pick up from the Extension Office; call ahead so we can place it in the drop box!
- Free!

## DNA Samples

- Pick up envelopes from and return to the Extension Office by June 3.
- Cost is \$7.00 each to be paid online when you nominate your animals at Stock Show Manager. (Site not open yet; stay tuned!)

Please either utilize the temporary drop box (weekdays from 8 to 5) or request mailing these items for an additional charge. Contact Sarah at [spolacek2@unl.edu](mailto:spolacek2@unl.edu) or Kristen at [kgrant3@unl.edu](mailto:kgrant3@unl.edu) Or call 402-370-4040. Thanks!

# 4-H Livestock News Continued

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

## Horse Advancement Level Update - March, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 situation and social distancing, there will be changes in 4-H horse Advancement Level Testing. To abide by social distancing recommendations, skills and demonstration testing are on hold.

We are encouraging youth to complete the written test, which will be offered online, and the reports/feed chart/healthcare charts as these pieces can be completed by youth at home. The goal is to offer the skills test and demonstration after May 9, 2020.

For 2020, we are also cancelling the District Horse Shows. All youth will be allowed to enter the Fonner Park State 4-H Expo without qualifying. Entries to the State 4-H Expo are due June 12 and the deadline for passing the advancement levels will be extended to June 12.

### Dates to Note:

Written Advancement Tests Available On-Line: March 25, 2020

Skills and Demonstration Testing Available (depending upon social distancing recommendations): May 9

**Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show Entry Date: June 12, 2020, to the county office**

**Advancement Levels Completed Due Date for State Entries: June 12, 2020**

**Stampede Entries Due: June 12, 2020**

## ADVANCEMENT LEVEL TESTING PROCEDURES

### LEVEL 1-3 REQUIREMENTS

**Written exam:** Contact the Extension Office for the link to take a test. If a youth does not receive at least an 80% on their first attempt, they will need to re-take the exam but a different version. Take the exam without using any resources.

**Skills test:** Currently on hold. The hope is to make these tests available after May 9. We will continue to monitor social distancing practices.

**Demonstration: Skills test:** Currently on hold. The hope is to make these tests available after May 9. We will continue to monitor social distancing practices.

### LEVEL 2 & 3 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

**Written report** and **feed chart** emailed to county office at time of completion. Youth are encouraged to complete these while we are all practicing social distancing.

### LEVEL 3 – ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT

**Health care paper** emailed to county office at time of completion. Youth are encouraged to complete these while we are all practicing social distancing.

### LEVEL 4 – REQUIREMENTS

**Demonstration, written report, and skills test** – follow same protocols as above

## 4-H Horse Stampede – Postponed

The 4-H Stampede is now moved to July 12, 2020 (the Sunday prior to the start of the State Expo). Contests will be held at Fonner Park starting in the morning. An updated schedule will be posted on the website soon. All youth need to re-register. Entries will be due on June 12.

## 4-H Livestock Booster Club Looking for Adult Volunteers!



In 2016, the Madison County 4-H Livestock Boosters was formed. Over the last couple years we have been able to provide over \$50,000 of bonus premium money to each and every animal exhibitor in Madison County because of our amazing sponsors and community support.

The main purpose of this group is to encourage the 4-H and FFA youth to show livestock at the Madison County Fair. Depending on the class and the placement they receive, each youth showing will receive some premium money from the Madison County Livestock Boosters.

As a volunteer of the group you help foster a relationship of 4-H members to grow in the 4-H program and help obtain and grow sponsorship for the program.

Let Sarah know if you are interested!

## New opportunity: Show Sheep and Goats at the 2020 Madison County Fair!



Want to learn more about sheep and goats, have an opportunity to care for them for a period of time, and then exhibit them at the county fair?

Contact Sarah for more information!

We would like to know even if you are slightly interested!

This opportunity could happen this year,  
so e-mail [spolacek2@unl.edu](mailto:spolacek2@unl.edu) by Friday, April 24.



## 4-H Dog Showmanship Resources

A new Dog Showmanship Video series is available that covers the basics of Dog 4-H showmanship, including video examples and descriptions of the patterns.

This video series can be found on the 4-H Companion Animal Program web page under the Program Resources section <https://4h.unl.edu/companion-animal> or on the Companion Animal YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL579hRei5D7xwKTqpe8kJw0GnfKK4x8I4>



## State Dog Show: Change

Save the date for the 2020 State Dog Show, which will be held October 3, 2020 at the Animal Science Complex at UNL.

Read more at <https://4h.unl.edu/dog-show>

## Nebraska Extension's Response to COVID-19

Nebraska Extension is fully committed to the health and well-being of Nebraskans. In a disease situation like COVID-19, the principle of social distancing is one of the main methods that can be used to help reduce the spread of the disease. Nebraska Extension will, whenever possible, provide Extension programs remotely (video or teleconferencing) but will not provide in-person Extension programs, at least until May 9. We recognize that this practice may create some level of disruption relative to the important information we provide to Nebraskans. In addition to our 'remote' course offerings, we encourage Nebraskans to visit [extension.unl.edu](http://extension.unl.edu) to access a wide array of online information. At least until May 9, no in-person 4-H programming will be held. This includes school enrichment, competitive events, clubs, workshops, etc. Our office will not be able to host any events for clubs or 4-H during this time. We will keep you updated as circumstances evolve!

# 4-H Calendar

## April

20—Fair Board Meeting, Madison County Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

27—4-H Council Meeting, TBA, 7 p.m.

## May

### 1—Project Add / Delete Deadline

18—Fair Board Meeting, Madison County Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

21—Window Workshop, Extension Office, 1 to 5 p.m.

25—Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

26—Extension Board Meeting, Extension Office, 6 p.m.

27—Quality Assurance Face to Face Training, Extension Office  
10 to 11 a.m. OR 2 to 3 p.m.

27—Hog Meeting, Extension Office, Time to be determined by when hog showmen do YQCA

27—Achievement Application Workshop, Extension Office, open worktime from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

28, 29, and June 1—Babysitting Clinic, Extension Office, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

28 OR 29—Cloverbud Book Buddy Workshop, Extension Office, 1 to 3 p.m.



## June

1—Camper Spots Open to 4-H Families, Call the Fairgrounds at 402-454-2144

2—Bee Hotel Workshop, Extension Office, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**3—DEADLINE DAY: Pre-entry forms for county fair, horse level testing for county level, cat and dog vaccination forms, livestock affidavits and photographs, and YQCA**

6-7—State 4-H Archery, Grand Island

9—Entomology Workshop, Extension Office, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

11—Photography Workshop, Extension Office, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

12—Sofa End Table Workshop, Madison County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

15—Fair Board Meeting, Madison County Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

15—4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7 p.m.

16—Cloverbud Stick Horse Workshop, 1 to 3 p.m.

**19—Fashion Show Pre-entry Forms (Pink Sheets) Deadline**

22-23—PASE / Life Challenge, Lincoln

24—State 4-H Speech Contest, Lincoln

25—4-H Council Meeting, Madison County Fairgrounds, 5:30 p.m.

25—4-H Clean-up Night, Madison County Fairgrounds, 6 to 8 p.m.

27—4-H Static Exhibit Judging Day, Madison County Fairgrounds, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**29—Bucket Calf Record Book Deadline**

*ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.*

Lee Sherry  
Ext. Educator

Wayne Ohnesorg  
Ext. Educator

Sarah Polacek  
4-H/Youth Ext. Assistant