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4-H Family Newsletter

Nebraska Extension in Madison County

601 E. Benjamin, Suite 105

Norfolk, NE 68701

Phone: 402-370-4040

Website: www.madison.unl.edu



March 2016

Madison County Fair Funpasses 2016



The Madison County Fairboard has again given the opportunity to 4-H families to reserve General Admission Funpasses for the 2016 Madison County Fair. Enclosed in this newsletter is a form to reserve tickets. Complete the form and return it to the Madison County Fair Office in Madison by Friday, April 15 at 11 a.m. (Do not return it to the Extension Office.) **NO LATE FORMS ACCEPTED.** Reserved tickets must be picked up on Saturday, April 30 between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the fairgrounds. If not picked up, they will be released for regular sale.

4-H Camper Spots at the Fairgrounds

Reservations for camper spots for 4-H families only open Monday, May 9 at 8 a.m. at the fair office. Call 402-454-2144. Camper spots open Monday, May 16 to the public.

You Must Pay At Time Of Reservation.

Credit cards will be accepted; however, there will be a \$4.00 transaction fee. The Fair Rate is \$100.00/camper.



4-H Enrollment Due April 1, 2016

4-H members, Cloverbuds, Leaders, and
Volunteers Enroll at ne.4honline.com

For returning members, REMOVE all projects you will NOT be exhibiting at fair. Also, ADD any new project you are even considering bringing to the fair. **There is no drop / add date for fair entries.** The projects listed on 4-H Online as of April 1 are the projects you can exhibit at fair because the program will not allow changes after April 1.

Dues are \$3.50 for 4-H and Cloverbud members, and \$4.50 for horse members. Volunteer dues are \$1.00 for insurance. Clubs can still pay one fee to the Extension Office; **independent members will not be accepted into the Madison County 4-H program until payment is received at the Extension Office.**

Please make checks payable to the
University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Because of the computerized deadline of
April 1 at 11:59 p.m.,
no registration exceptions.**

4-H Fun Day

Monday, March 28, 2016

Cloverbuds (5-7 years old) from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Leap into 4-H — cost \$9.00

- ◆ Join us to learn about frogs and 4-H!
- ◆ Leave with three completed projects.

To register, call 402-370-4040 by
Wednesday, March 16.

4-H Age (8-18 years old) from 1 to 3 p.m.

“This is Who I Am...” — cost \$9.00

- ◆ Paint a wall hanging for Design Decisions.
- ◆ Create a “This is Who I Am” poem for Citizenship.
- ◆ Write and record a PSA for the county contest.
- ◆ Leave with *three* completed projects!



March is Bake & Take month, when you are encouraged to bake a wheat good and share it with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and shut-ins. Nebraska Wheat Board (NWB) is again sponsoring recipe cards and stickers for any 4-H groups or other organizations that wish to participate. This year's recipes include low-cal, fat free brownies and fudge cookie bars. Those interested or who have questions can contact NWB at (402) 471-2358 or wheat.board@nebraska.gov. No cost for the supplies and no limit on the number that can be requested. Please let the office know how many treats you distribute during March!

Early Bird Gets the Discount!

Beat the summer blues by signing up now for 4-H summer camps and trips. Camper fees paid on or before April 15 receive a 10 percent early bird discount. Full brochures are available at the Extension Office or visit the Nebraska 4-H Camps website at <http://4h.unl.edu/4hcamps>



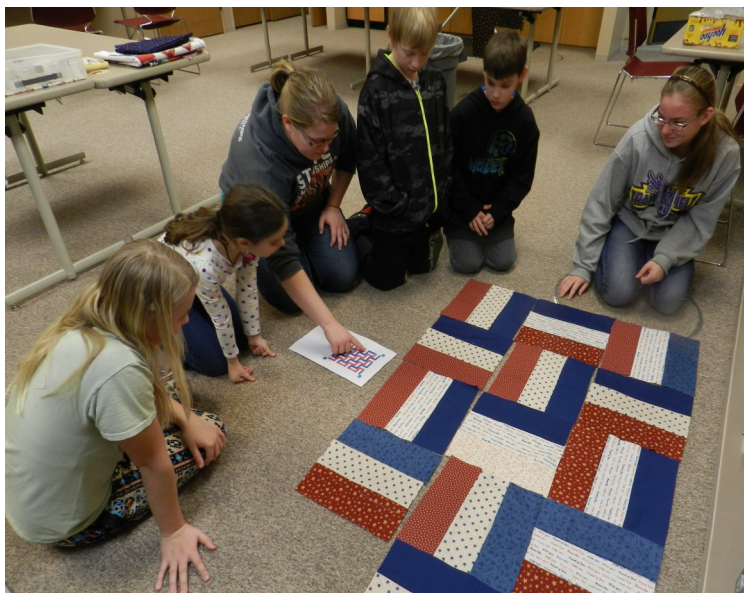
DID YOU KNOW?

Check out the different colleges & majors at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln at <http://go.unl.edu/kq0v>

Quilt of Valor Broadcast

Last year, Iowa Public Television interviewed 4-H'ers, leaders, and Extension Staff who were working with Quilts of Valor. The 100+ minute documentary was shown in Iowa the first part of December. Quilts of Valor II Documentary will be broadcasted on NET (1) on Sunday, March 6 at 12:30 p.m. It is also scheduled on NET Create (3) on March 7 at 11:00 a.m. and March 12 at 2 p.m.

4-H members (below) and volunteers from Madison County met the first week of February to cut, pin, and sew blocks for a Quilt of Valor. We had enough fabric to make TWO! The quilts will be displayed at the Madison County Fair.



Madison County 4-H Council Scholarship: Deadline April 1

A letter along with an application was sent to all graduating 4-H members. If you did not receive the mailing, please let Sarah know by calling 402-370-4040.



New County Fair Class: 4-H Career Portfolio

The Nebraska 4-H Career Portfolio is the annual record-keeping system used by Nebraska 4-H youth; it is a composite of all 4-H and non 4-H projects and activities throughout the individual's 4-H career. As you work on this book, exhibit them at the county fair to be judged for a premium award. The record book will be judged on the current calendar year information. Career Portfolio books for yearly medal awards are still due October 1.

Template can be found at: <http://4h.unl.edu/careerportfolio> Optional cover and tabs are available for purchase at the Extension office. Or purchase the new black covers just released this week at <http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/newitems.aspx>

Innovative Ideas in 4-H

Whether career connections to your 4-H projects, how-to articles, or UNL news, there's something for everyone in the 4-H Spotlight Newsletter. Visit <https://www.smore.com/rcfy0!> or the Madison County 4-H page and click on the Spotlight on 4-H Newsletter link.

New this Year: Sewing Skills for STEAM I, II, and III

The State Fairbook states that sewing projects “must reflect at least one new skill learned from the manual.” When planning what sewing projects to exhibit at fair, consider the following skill-level lists:

STEAM I

- Select woven fabric, flannel and fleece in solid colors or all over prints (plaids, stripes, napped fabric and jersey knits are NOT used in STEAM I)
- Identify sewing tools and their purpose
- Use a color wheel
- Accurately measure your body to purchase the correct pattern size
- Distinguish knit, woven and felted fabrics
- Learn grain lines, selvage, and folded edge
- Identify natural and synthetic fibers
- Learn the sewing machine parts and how to properly operate the machine
- Sewing Skills for STEAM I
 - Pattern use: what the pattern markings mean, how to lay out and cut the pattern
 - Straight seams
 - Seam finishes: Zigzag or Clean Finish
 - Curved seams
 - Notching and clipping
 - Facings
 - Under stitch
 - Hand stitching: Running, Basting, Backstitch, Whipstitch, Overcast, and slip stitch
 - Hemming
- Upcycling – identify and select appropriate recyclable materials and develop ideas for ‘upcycling’

STEAM II

- Choose fabric – any fabric used in STEAM I plus knits and specialty prints
- Learn more about the different fibers
- Properly press a garment
- Adjust a pattern to fit your body
- Learn how and when to use interfacing
- Sewing Skills for STEAM II
 - Finishes: Over edge or serged
 - Darts and gathers
 - Put in buttonholes and attach buttons
 - Clipping and notching around curves and corners
 - Hand Stitching: Slip, Catch and Invisible stitches
 - Zippers: Lap, Center, Fly-front and Exposed
 - Pockets: Patch, Welt, Inset, Inseam, Flap, Gusset
 - Sleeves: Set-in, Raglan, Kimono, and Dolman
 - Cuffs and Plackets
 - Collars
 - Waistbands: Straight, Contour, Stretch and Faced

STEAM III

- Become acquainted with a serger
- Learn tools to properly press your garments
- Learn more about fibers, fabrics and special fabrics
- Sewing Skills for STEAM III
 - Seam finishes: French, flat-felled and rolled hem
 - Boning
 - Zipper: Invisible
 - Tailoring techniques: Stay tape, lapels, tailored sleeve cap, shoulder pads, bound buttonholes
 - Couture Techniques: Hong Kong finish, hand-picked zipper and French tacks



4-H Speech and PSA Contest

April 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the
Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

Call the Office at 402-370-4040 by April 1 to sign up for the contest and submit your speech title to be printed in the program.

Topics for all divisions should be related to 4-H. Ages are as of January 1, 2016.

- ◆ Clover Kids—ages 5 to 7 (read a poem, story, or speech)
- ◆ Novice—ages 10 and under who have never given a speech (1 to 3 minutes)
- ◆ Junior Division—ages 8 to 10 (under 3 minutes)
- ◆ Intermediate Division—ages 11 to 13 (3 to 5 minutes)
- ◆ Senior Division—ages 14 to 18 (5 to 8 minutes)
- ◆ Public Service Announcement—must be 60 seconds. All PSA's must use the theme "4-H Grows Confidence" and include the tag line: "Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu". Include the within the 60 second total time limit. Radio PSA's will only be submitted to the regional and state competitions electronically as a .wav or mp3 format. (No CDs will be accepted.)

NO costumes, props, posters, etc. will be allowed.

Note cards are acceptable.

Winners of the county contest may advance to the Regional Speech Contest held at the Lifelong Learning Center on May 26.



Youth Horticulture ID Contest

The Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners will host a Youth Horticulture ID Contest at their annual Plant Fair & Market. All youth ages 8-18 are encouraged to participate. Participation is free, but all participants must preregister by April 22 by contacting the Nebraska Extension Office in Madison County at 402-370-4040. Contestants will be required to sight ID horticultural plants to the accepted common name. The list of possible plants and study guides are available at <http://madison.unl.edu/theplantfair>

Contest Details

Date: Friday, April 29, 2016

Time: Competition begins 6:15 p.m.

Awards Presented 7:15 p.m.

Location: Chuck Pohlman Ag Complex,
Northeast Community College, Norfolk

Prizes (awarded for *each* age bracket):

- 1st Place - \$25 cash AND \$25 gift certificate for the Master Gardeners Plant Booths
- 2nd Place - \$10 cash AND \$15 gift certificate for the Master Gardeners Plant Booths
- 3rd Place - \$10 gift certificate for the Master Gardeners Plant Booths

Age brackets:

- Junior – 8-11 years old
- Intermediate – 12-14 years old
- Senior – 15-18 years old

THINK



SPRING

Youth Volunteer Opportunity

The Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners could use your help at the annual Plant Fair & Market at the Northeast Community College Chuck Pohlman Ag Complex in Norfolk. Volunteers are requested to take patron's items to vehicles. Wagons will be available. The plant fair is Friday, April 29, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 30, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call the Nebraska Extension office in Wayne County at 402-375-3310 by April 22 to sign up for a time that will work for you.

LIVESTOCK NEWS!



Animal Identification Guidelines and Deadlines

Included in this newsletter are the guidelines and deadlines for the 2016 year, such as the nomination process, correct identification means for the fairs, and pre-entry deadlines. Please review this carefully as items have changed from previous years.

We will not accept late forms or entries.



State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben Highlights

All Market Animals must have DNA samples turned in and EID tags. DNA Samples cost \$6.00 each.

All Breeding Animals must have nomination card turned in. Nomination cards cost \$2.00 each.

Call Sarah with any questions.



2016 Livestock Shows, Horse Shows, and Clinics will be available at:

[http://madison.unl.edu/
madisoncounty4h](http://madison.unl.edu/madisoncounty4h)

Checkout the livestock shows and programs link. The document will be updated regularly upon notice of shows.



State Fair Changes in the 4-H Beef Show

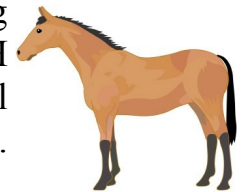
The State Fair 4-H and FFA beef shows will be no-fit. While we certainly respect the talent and passion many have for the fitting process, this decision was based on feedback from staff and families, as well as the success of the blow and go showmanship contest at the 2015 Nebraska State Fair. Families were largely in favor of the change for the 2016 State Fair; specifically, they cited:



- A reduction in the cost of supplies and products.
- The need for fewer blocking chutes and expedition of the unloading process.

4-H Horse Judging Team

Are you interested in joining the Madison County 4-H Horse judging Team? Call Sarah if you are interested.



More information to come!

Horse judging is one of the most educational and popular activities of the 4-H Horse Project. Horse judging contests involve two actions: first, place each animal in a class; second, orally defend that placing. Horse judging helps youth:

- Develop communication skills
- Make decisions based on facts and observations
- Compete with a sportsmanlike attitude
- Learn essential skills for success in the horse industry
- Develop self confidence

Quality Assurance Reminders

All 4-Hers enrolled in market and breeding beef, bucket calf, feeder calf, cow/calf, dairy, dairy goat, meat goat, market and breeding sheep, swine, rabbit and poultry projects are required to complete Quality Assurance. The online QA Moodle Course is available at <http://campus.extension.org> Instructions are online at [http://extension.unl.edu/
statewide/madison/4h/](http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/madison/4h/)

UPCOMING DATES...

More workshops and information will be posted in future newsletters; dates are subject to change.

March

- 16—Registrations due to the Extension Office for 4-H Fun Day**
- 22—Ag Literacy Festival, Madison County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 28—4-H Fun Day, Lifelong Learning Center
 - Cloverbuds from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. “Leap into 4-H”
 - 4-Hers from 1 to 3 p.m. “This is Who I Am”
- 28—Horse Testing, Lifelong Learning Center, 11:30 to 1 p.m.
- No 4-H Council

April

- 1—4-H Enrollment and Payment Deadline**
- 1—Project Add / Delete Deadline**
- 11—County Speech and PSA Contest, Lifelong Learning Center, 6 p.m.
- 25—4-H Council Meeting, Lifelong Learning Center, 7 p.m.
- 28—All Levels Horse Testing Must be Complete

May

- 2—Bucket Calf ID Sheets Due to the Extension Office**
- 13—District and State Horse Show Entries Deadline**
- 25—Pajama Pant Workshop, Lifelong Learning Center, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- 26—Regional Speech and Interview Contest, Lifelong Learning Center
- 30—Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
- 31 through June 8—ESI Camp with Norfolk Public School**
- No 4-H Council

June

- 2—Livestock ID Sheets Due to the Extension Office**
- 3—Beyond the Needle Workshop, Lifelong Learning Center, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- 3—Modeling Workshop and Revue, Lifelong Learning Center, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- 13—4-H Council, Lifelong Learning Center, 7 p.m.
- 13—District Horse Show at Kearney
- 13-15—Babysitting Clinic, Lifelong Learning Center, 9:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. daily
- 14 and 15—Cloverbud Camp, Lifelong Learning Center, 1 to 3 p.m.
- 14—District Horse Show at Chadron
- 15—District Horse Show at McCook
- 16—District Horse Show at Leigh
- 17—District Horse Show at Bloomfield
- 17—Pre-fair Entries Due at Noon**
- 19-20—PASE and Life Challenge, Lincoln
- 21—District Horse Show at Lincoln
- 22—Biscuit and Jelly Making Workshop, Madison County Fairgrounds, 1 to 3 p.m.

MARCH

In like a lion...



...out like a lamb.

2016 COUNTY FAIR DATES

Static Exhibit Judging:

Saturday, July 9, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Foods & Gardening Judging:

Wednesday, July 13, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fair Dates: July 12—17

Lee Sherry
Ext. Educator

Wayne Ohnesorg
Ext. Educator

Sarah Polacek
4-H/Youth Ext. Assistant

2016 MADISON COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO

4-H FAMILY TICKET ORDER FORM: GENERAL ADMISSION ONLY

Order form due to the Madison County Fairgrounds in Madison
by April 15 at noon.

LAST NAME: _____

_____ # of funpasses needed (general admission)

*Please do not include payment with this form; bring your payment when picking up funpasses on Saturday, April 30.

FAMILY MEMBERS' NAMES:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

NOTE: Family members must be immediate family members only and ages 6 to 18. Those 5 and under are free and do not need a ticket. This form must be received at the Fair Office – P O Box 775, Madison, NE 68748 by noon on Friday, April 15, 2016, and all tickets ordered must be picked up no later than 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2016. Tickets ordered but not picked up and paid for by the deadline will be put back into stock for sale to the public. The Madison County Fairboard is happy to be able to provide this service to our 4-H families.

NOTE: 4-H Campsite reservations will be available starting
Monday, May 9 at 8 a.m.