



JOIN 4-H TODAY!

Welcome to the Madison County 4-H Program! Please be sure to enroll by Tuesday, April 2 to ensure you receive all the information needed to be a part of the 4-H program and participate at the Madison County Fair! Follow this link below for more information about 4-H, clubs in Madison County and how to enroll! Reminder: you only have to choose one project to continue. All project selections will be put on your pre-enrollment form which will be available in April.

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/madison/join-4-h-today/>

4-H Enrollment for 2024

The 4-H Online system for the new 4-H year is now OPEN! Now is the perfect time to join a club. See a list of clubs in Madison County at <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/madison/2022%204-H%20Leaders.pdf>

- **To Enroll**, login at v2.4honline.com by **APRIL 1**

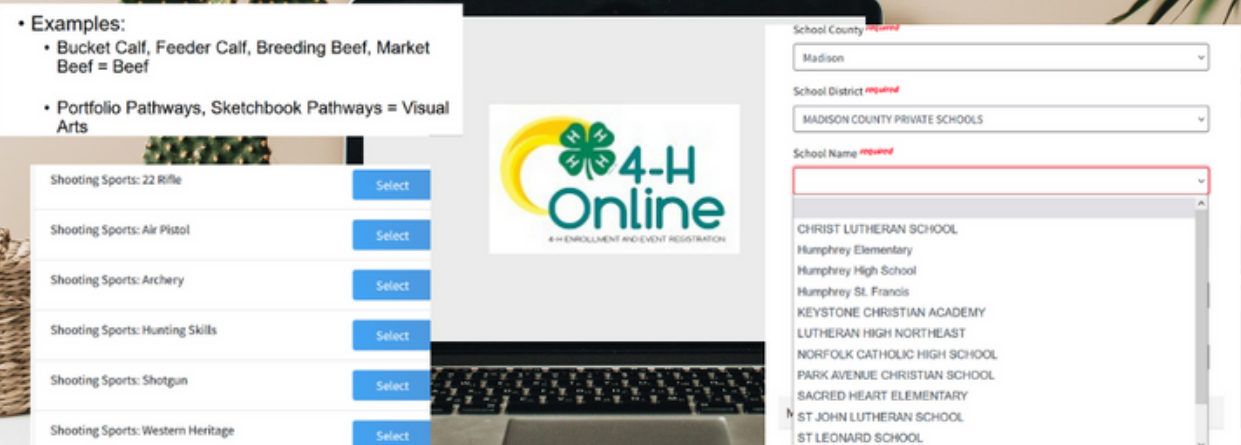
Returning families: do not create a new profile. Use your email and password from previous years to sign in.

New families: create a new profile and write down your password. We do not have access to passwords.

- **Step-by-step instructions** can be viewed at <https://4h.unl.edu/enroll>

• **Examples:**

- Bucket Calf, Feeder Calf, Breeding Beef, Market Beef = Beef
- Portfolio Pathways, Sketchbook Pathways = Visual Arts



The screenshot shows the 4-H Online enrollment interface. On the left, there is a list of project options under 'Shooting Sports' with 'Select' buttons: 22 Rifle, Air Pistol, Archery, Hunting Skills, Shotgun, and Western Heritage. In the center is the '4-H Online' logo. On the right, there is a form with dropdown menus for 'School County' (Madison), 'School District' (MADISON COUNTY PRIVATE SCHOOLS), and 'School Name'. A list of schools is visible below the 'School Name' dropdown, including CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL, Humphrey Elementary, and others.

4-H Vender and Craft Fair—April 22

4-H Council is having a vendor and craft fair fundraiser at the Madison County Fairgrounds from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.. Manpower is needed from 4-H families and clubs to set up Thursday, April 18th at 6pm at the fairgrounds. Please see enclosed flyer for more information!



Quilt of Valor Nominations

We are very excited that the Quilts of Valor tradition will continue in 2024! Thank you to all of you who have helped over the past two years create some beautiful quilts that were awarded to our service men and women. We are currently working on more quilts this year to be awarded! If you are interested in sewing a quilt top together or donating fabric, please let us know! We hope to award a few quilts during the 2024 Madison County Fair and Rodeo! More details about the award ceremony will come later, but right now nominations are being collected. Active servicemen and living veterans who received honorable discharge are eligible.

Nomination guidelines are included on the nomination form available at <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/madison/Nomination%20for%20QOV.pdf> Submit nominations to the Extension Office by May 1.

Save the Date! Madison County Fair

July 9-14, 2024

****4-H Static Judging Day and Fashion Show will be held on Saturday, June 29.**

****4-H Foods and Gardening Judging Day will be held on Tuesday, July 9.**



4-H Camper Spots at the Fairgrounds 2024

Reserve your camper spot for the 2024 Madison County Fair and Rodeo. Open to 4-H families on **Monday, April 1** beginning at 8:00 a.m. Call the Madison County Fairgrounds at 402-454-2144. (will open to the public on April 29, so be sure to call) Price per spot is \$125 plus credit card transaction fee.



4-H Speech, PSA, and Presentation Contest

Share your public speaking skills at the Madison County Speech, PSA, and Presentation Contest Thursday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. Registration is due Monday, April 22. Contact Kelcie at khall32@unl.edu or 402-370-4040 to sign up for the contest, scan the QR Code, or visit this link <https://go.unl.edu/b49j>.



PSAs must be submitted April 22 to be judged prior to the contest.

We would love to help you prepare a speech or practice! Contact Sarah at 402-370-4040 to set up a time!

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Purple \$4.00 Blue \$3.50 Red \$3.00

NO costumes, props, visual aids, etc. will be allowed. Note cards are acceptable. Select the purpose of the speech, whether to inform, entertain, persuade, or motivate the audience. Organization should include an introduction (capture attention and provide central thought of speech), the body (present main points through discussion and examples), and a conclusion (restate central thought and summarize points). Acknowledge the source of information used in the speech. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference and should be cited if directly quoted. Contestants must qualify at the regional contest to compete in the state competition. Only senior division PSA and Speech Regional winners will advance to the state competition.

- **Cloverbuds** – Ages 5 to 7 (reading a poem, story or speech)
- **Novice** – Age 10 and under and has never given a speech before (under 3 minutes)
- **Junior** – Age 8 to 10 as of January 1; has given speech before (1 to 3 minutes)
- **Intermediate** – Age 11 to 13 as of January 1 (3 to 5 minutes)
- **Senior** – Age 14 to 18 as of January 1 (5 to 8 minutes)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Did you know US92 will record your PSA and add sound effects? Or come to the Extension Office and we will help you write, record, and fine-tune your PSA!

Purple \$4.00 Blue \$3.50 Red \$3.00

Public Service Announcement – must be 60 seconds. The state theme for 2024 is “4-H is a Feeling”. Must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska any time of the year. Include the following tag line in the last 10 seconds of the PSA: “Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu”. Include the within the 60-second total time limit. Sound effects and public domain music may be used. Copyrighted material may not be used. Radio PSA’s will only be submitted to the regional and state competitions electronically as a .wav or mp3 format.

- **Junior** Division – Age 8 to 10 as of Jan. 1
- **Intermediate** Division – Age 11 to 13 as of Jan. 1
- **Senior** Division – Age 14 to 18 as of Jan. 1



Presentation Contest

Purple \$5.00 Blue \$4.00 Red \$3.00

An Illustrated 4-H Presentation, given by one individual or a team of two individuals, is a live presentation with a formal talk where youth will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. Judge views the entire presentation and engages in a question and answer session following presentation.

Presentations should be related to what the 4-H youth is learning through 4-H educational experiences focused on the priorities of career and college readiness, community development, entrepreneurship, food supply confidence, healthy living, leadership development, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Organization should include an introduction (the "why" portion of the topic), a body (the "show and tell" portion), and a conclusion / summary (the "what" portion).

A live presentation with a formal talk where youth will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. Time limit is 6-8 minutes, 8-10 minutes for a team.

Classes:

113. Illustrated Presentation

901. Show and Tell competition for first & second year 4-H members (no visual aids required)

Premier Communication Event

June 17 & 18, 2024 | Lincoln, Nebraska

If you qualify at the County Speech and Presentation Event, you will have the opportunity to compete during this event!

The Nebraska 4-H Premier Communication Event features a variety of state-level communication contests. The one-day event is held at the Nebraska East Union in Lincoln. The event is designed to provide youth with an opportunity to:

- showcase their learning and skills in the area of communication.
- explore issues related to the communication industry.
- discover college and career opportunities.
- meet other 4-H youth from across the state.

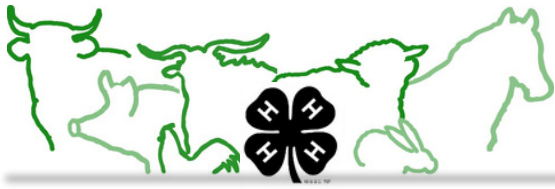
Youth participate in a variety of contests focused upon communication, presentation, and public speaking. In addition, youth will have chances to explore East Campus, participate in learning sessions and tours, and have fun with friends!

Good Luck at the Madison County Speech Contest! We would love to have you compete at this premier event! More information will be provided once qualified.

Other events open without qualifications are: Impromptu Speech and Video Communication.

<https://4h.unl.edu/premier-communication->





4-H Livestock News

Virtual Companion Animal Challenge Contest

Love small animals? The Companion Animal Challenge offers a variety of contests that do not require live animals, including a Demonstration Contest, Essay Contest, Art Contest, and Photography Contest. Youth can display their companion animal knowledge through these contests both as individuals and as part of a team.



The 2024 4-H Companion Animal Challenge will be held virtually. Online entry forms are due by 5:00 p.m. on April 1.

Entry fees will be \$5 per contest.

More information can be found at:

<https://4h.unl.edu/companion-animal/challenge>

Watch this video for tips and suggestions for the Virtual Companion Animal Challenge Contest:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yjQ7sNpyuo>

2024 State Horse Show

There will be NO District Horse Shows again in 2024 however, the Fonner Park State Horse Expo is the pinnacle showing experience for members of the 4-H Horse Program. The show includes a multitude of classes for youth and their horses, such as halter and showmanship classes which are open to all youth. Please be sure to have your Horsemanship Advancement Levels complete by June 1. For more information check out the following link:

<https://4h.unl.edu/horse-expo-show>

July 13-17, 2024

Fonner Park

Grand Island, NE



Livestock Quality Assurance 2024

All 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors must complete this certification before being able to show beef cattle, dairy cattle or goats, sheep, meat goats, poultry and/or rabbits at the county and / or state fair. **Cloverbuds are not required to complete this training. Quality Assurance will be offered through the program YQCA, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals again this year! **The deadline for completion is June 15, 2024.**

Registering for quality assurance will be online at <https://yqcaprogram.org/> using the Family 4-H Online login information for active youth. If you are in both 4-H and FFA, please register through the 4-H login. Be sure you select the 2024 training dates. **PLEASE COMPLETE THE PRE-TEST WHEN YOU REGISTER! Then after completing the class you will return to access your certificate and complete the POST-TEST. These are quick surveys. Thank you.**

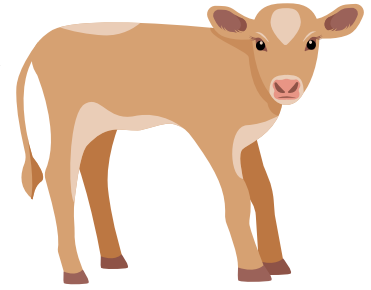
Face-to-face sessions (1 hour) cost \$3.00 and online sessions cost \$12. Whether you are completing online or face-to-face certification all registrations and payments must be completed online prior to completion. Refunds cannot be given if you can't make the face-to-face session.

Upcoming face-to-face certification : **April 1, from 2pm–3pm at the Extension Office in Norfolk.





4-H Bottle Lambs & 4-H Bucket Calves

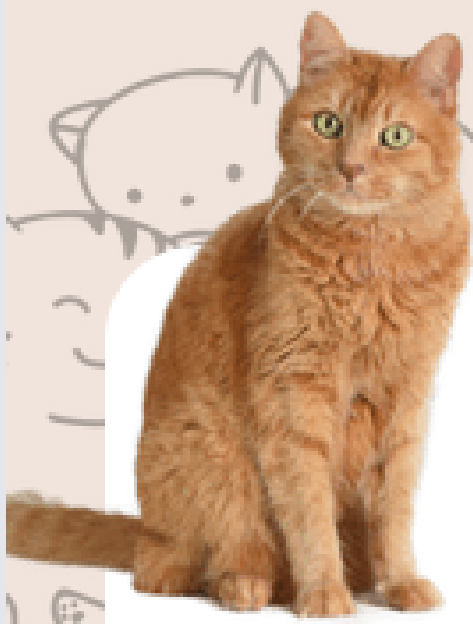


Interested in showing a 4-H Bottle Lamb or 4-H Bucket Calf at the Madison County Fair? Here's what you need to know!

The purpose of these projects is designed to provide an opportunity for 4-H youth to exhibit an animal, teach basic management skills, and to teach basic record keeping skills.

The Guidelines include:

- 1) **4-H AGE:** 5 through 14 years of age as of January 1 of the current year.
 - 2) **BUCKET CALF:** an orphan or newborn calf, either a heifer or steer. No bull calves allowed. The calf may be beef, dairy, or a cross bred and must be bottle/bucket fed. Calf must be born between February 1 and May 1 of the current year.
 - 3) **BOTTLE LAMB:** an orphan, or newborn lamb born after January 1 and before May 1, male or female; and fed on bucket or bottle.
 - 4) **IDENTIFICATION:** Calf or lamb must have an official 4-H ear tag/scrapies tag by June 15 and be identified on the county identification sheet.
 - 5) **RECORD BOOK:** Every exhibitor will use the specially designed bucket calf/bottle lamb record book for your age group to keep record of their project, complete it with a story and turn it into the Extension office by June 28.
 - 6) **INTERVIEWS:** All exhibitors will participate in an in-person interview during the county fair.
 - 6) **COUNTY FAIR CLASSES:** Calves will be shown with a rope halter in the bucket calf specific class. Beef exhibitors cannot use a show stick. The calf can only be washed and brushed (no fitting or clipping). Bucket Calves cannot be used for beef showmanship.
- Lambs will be shown in a bottle class specific class during the 4-H/FFA Sheep Show. Bottle lambs cannot to be used for showmanship classes.
- 7) **SCORINGSYSTEM:** Ages 8-14 will be judged by adding their total scores for showmanship, interview, and record book. The quality and breed will not be considered. Ages 5, 6 and 7 will participate in all three areas, but as a non-competitive project.



4-H Cat Showmanship Workshop

April 13, 2024 | 10am
at the Madison County Vet Clinic
802 W 8th St, Madison, NE

Have you ever wondered how you show a cat at the fair? Then this workshop is purr-fect for you! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced cat exhibitor, join us for a meow-nificent time as we explore all things cat-related. Don't miss out on this chance to sharpen your skills and have a furry good time!

Workshop is open to 4-H members and non-4-H members! Will have an opportunity to learn how you can join 4-H too!

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Register by visiting:
<https://forms.gle/YZ9Vo3EpQNU8GjXs7>
or calling the Nebraska Extension in Madison County
402-370-4040.

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Sponsored by the
Madison County Vet Clinic





8th Annual

TACK SWAP

New & Used Tack, Saddles, Boots
Western Wear, Hats, Western Décor & More!

Saturday, April 13, 2024 9 AM – 4
PM

MERRICK COUNTY YOUTH & AGRICULTURAL CENTER
Merrick County Fairgrounds, 1784 Fairgrounds Road, Central City, NE 68826

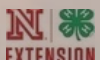


**VENDORS RESERVE YOUR BOOTH
SPACE by March 20th!**

***10' x 10' Booth \$35 ~ *10' x 20' Booth \$55**

- Reserve your space by March 20th. First come first serve. Space is limited!
- Vendors must sign a contract and pay a booth fee to reserve space
- No commissions on vendor sales
- Set up times available: Friday, April 12th, 6 – 9 PM, Saturday, 7 – 9 AM
- Doors OPEN to the public at 9 AM!
- Concessions on grounds
- *Nebraska Jr. Highschool Rodeo this weekend!*

Call Susan @ 308-946-3633 to reserve your booth!
Fundraiser for the Platte River Riders 4-H Horse Club



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University Nebraska – Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the non-discrimination policies of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



MADISON COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

SPRING FLING: VENDOR AND CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2024

Join us for a day of shopping vendors, crafts, boutiques, & more! This event will be held in the 4-H and commercial building on the Madison Co. fairgrounds. You can also stop by the Nebraska Extension booth to learn more about joining 4-H!

Vendors include:

- Tastefully Simple
- Mary & Martha
- Krickett & Lime Boutique
- Pampered Chef
- Scentsy
- Color Street
- Jessica's Kreative Designs
- Yappy Hour Treats Devour & Totally Unique
- Tupperware
- Zya
- Crafts by Sue
- Jamie's Creations
- Joy's Promise
- Tiny Leaf Co.
- Mireles Verse 3D
- Poppin' Delights Gourmet Popcorn
- Peanut's Sweet Treats
- Cozy Cove Mercantile
- Horstman Homegrown
- Route 35 Boutique
- Heart D Boutique
- Watkins
- Madison County 4-H
- Triple J's Seasoning
- Knotty Grandma's
- Tis' the Season Crafts
- Dusty Roads Designs
- Nixx Baby
- Creations by Ranell
- Cottonwood Pottery
- Unkel Woodworking
- Norfolk Nutrition
- With Grace Boutique
- Laser Lux
- Just Craftin' Around
- Sparta Emporium
- Brows by Jess - permanent jewelry

TIME: 9am - 2pm

**LOCATION: Madison County Fairgrounds,
Madison Nebraska**

**FREE
Admission**



4-H School Enrichment Request -Poultry Embryology-

Our 4-H School enrichment program, Poultry Embryology, is one of our most loved and enjoyed programs of the year! Students throughout Madison County will learn about the embryonic development and the life cycle of a baby chicken throughout their 21-day incubation process where they tend to the incubator and eggs, witness hatching, and then care for the chicks while they are in their classroom for a few days. We are in search of fertile eggs for the embryology program in Madison County. Between childcare centers and elementary schools, we are reaching around 600 youth with this program. This year though we are searching for eggs so we can continue to offer this to around 20+ classrooms in April. We supply one-dozen eggs per classroom. So, if you have any fertile eggs, you would be willing to donate, we would appreciate it! We also then will return the chicks that hatch back to you if you would like. If chickens don't have homes, we are also looking for homes for them as well. Please email Sarah at spolacek2@unl.edu or call the office at 402-370-4040. Thank you!

Youth Volunteer Opportunity

The Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners could use your help! Youth volunteers are needed at annual Plant Fair & Market at the Northeast Community College Chuck Pohlman Ag Complex in Norfolk. Help the patron take items to their vehicle; wagons will be available. The plant fair is Friday, April 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 27 from 9 am to 3 pm. Call the Extension Office at 402-370-4040 by April 15 to sign up for a time.

GOVERNOR'S AG EXCELLENCE AWARD– Due April 1

Sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, the purpose of the award is to recognize 4-H clubs for the work of the individuals in the club and the community service work of the entire club. Applications are due April 1. Check out the following link for more information! ne4hfoundation.org/governors-ag-excellence-award/ for more information

2024 CALENDAR



Subject to change.

More activities and workshops will be added in the future!

March

- 16- Project Day, Madison County Fairgrounds, 9am-2pm
- 23- 4-H Horse Stampede

April

- 13-Tack Swap, Merrick County Fairgrounds
- 20- 4-H Council Vendor Fair, Madison County Fairgrounds
- 22- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm
- 25 - Speech, PSA, & Presentation Contest, Extension Office , 5pm

May

- 27- Office Closed - Memorial Day

June

- 15- County Fair Deadline Day!
- 15- Fashion Show Entry Deadline
- 17-18- State Premier Communication Event
- TBA- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm
- 27- Fair Clean Up, Madison County Fairgrounds, 6-8pm
- 29- 4-H Fair Judging Day, Madison County Fairgrounds, 8am-noon
- 29- Public 4-H Fashion Show, MCF, 3 pm
- 7-18- State Premier Communication Event
- 28- Bucket Calf Record Books Deadline

July

- 4- Office Closed- Independence Day
- 9-14 Madison County Fair!
- 9- Judging Day (Foods/Horticulture), Madison County Fairgrounds, 8am-noon
- 13-17- State Horse Show, Fonner Park, Grand Island

August

- 12-20- State Fair Drop Off, Extension Office
- 19 - Extension Office open until 6:30pm for State Fair Exhibits
- 20 - Til NOON - State Fair Food and Horticulture Exhibit Deadline
- 23- State Fair Begins, Grand Island
- TBA- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm
- 30 - 4-H Achievement Ceremony Nomination and Application Deadline

September

- 2- State Fair Ends
- 4- State Fair Projects Ready for families to pick up from Extension Office
- TBA Achievement Ceremony, Extension Office
- 23 - 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

October-National 4-H Month

- 28- 4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office, 7pm

November

- 28-29 Office Closed - Thanksgiving

December

- 23-Jan 1. - Closed - Holiday Shutdown

Sarah Polacek
4-H Educator



Jayd Roberts
4-H Assistant



Leo Gonzalez
4-H Educator