



FEBRUARY—MARCH 2023 IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb. 20– Office Closed
Presidents' Day
- Feb. 21– Junior Indoor Archery
Contest, 6:00pm, 4-H Building
- March 1– 4-H Spirit Day!
Wear a 4-H t-shirt or hoodie!
- March 7– Int. & Senior Indoor
Archery Contest, 6:00pm, 4-H
Building
- March 8– 4-H Volunteer
Appreciation Day!
- March 11-12– 4-H Service
Learning Weekend!
- March 13– Jr. Leader Banquet,
7:00pm, 4-H Building
- March 15– 4-H Sponsor & Donor
Appreciation Day!
- Mar. 16– Pancake Feed &
Jr. Leader Cake Walk,
5:00-8:00pm, 4-H Building
- March 22– 4-H Professional
Appreciation Day!
- March 29– 4-H Spirit Day!
Wear a 4-H t-shirt or hoodie!

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MERRICK 4-H TIMES

Winter-Spring 2023 Issue

Merrick County Extension Office . 1784 Fairgrounds Road . Central City, NE 68826
308-946-3843 . merrick@unl.edu . <http://merrick.unl.edu>



Merrick County 4-H, Nebraska (UNL Extension)



Are you JOINING 4-H in 2023?

⇒ Login to your family account
at v2.4honline.com or use the
QR Code to re-enroll.



The sooner you join, the more you'll know!



⇒ Need help? Click the QR Code
for step-by-step directions!



Sign in

Welcome Emily!

*Please join us in welcoming Emily Soll to Nebraska Extension!
She is the new 4-H Educator serving both Merrick & Hamilton.*

Hi, I'm Emily. I'm originally from Northeast Nebraska, where I grew up on our family farm. I finished my Bachelor's in Agricultural Leadership and my Master's in Leadership Education with a specialization in Teaching and Extension at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Growing up, I was an active member of the local 4-H program which influenced my decision to join the world of Extension. Outside of work, I enjoy photography and spending time with family and friends. I'm very excited to for this new adventure with Nebraska Extension!



You can email Emily at
esoll2@unl.edu



Animal Science

4-H Companion Animal Opportunities



4h.unl.edu/companion-animal
(Go to the website, click and explore!)

UNL Horse Programs!

- State 4-H Rodeo
 - Equine Webinars
 - State Horse Expo
 - Horsemanship Study Courses
 - Horsemanship Advancement Levels
- ...and so much more HORSE can be found here!



SOAR Workshop Series

The SOAR Workshop Series provides youth and their canine companion with an opportunity to develop and practice Showmanship, Obedience, Agility, and Rally skills under the guidance of experienced clinicians.

SOAR Workshop Series

Dog Achievement Program

The Nebraska 4-H Dog Achievement Program encourages youth to engage in a variety of companion animal opportunities, events, and contests. The program is designed to equip youth with a variety of skills and abilities and prepare them for success in the future. The Dog Achievement Program is open to enrolled 4-H members ages 6-16.

Dog Achievement Program

Companion Animal Webinar Series

The Nebraska 4-H Companion Animal Webinar Series is a great way for 4-H leaders, parents, and senior aged youth to gain knowledge in various companion animal-related topic areas. Each session, a new topic will be covered with various experts joining to share their experience and expertise.

Companion Animal Webinar Series

Companion Rabbit Science

Companion Rabbit Science is a self-paced learning opportunity offering information about caring for rabbits. The online course is great for middle-school-aged youth but is open to all youth regardless of age who are looking to learn more about rabbits and the 4-H rabbit project. Companion Rabbit Science is a great resource for anyone interested in caring for or learning about rabbits in 4-H whether they own one now or not!

Companion Rabbit Science

Virtual Companion Animal Challenge

The Virtual Companion Animal Challenge provides 4-H members an opportunity to showcase and demonstrate their companion animal knowledge through a variety of 4-H contests that do not require live animals, including demonstrations, trivia, essay, art, and more.

Virtual Companion Animal Challenge

State 4-H Dog Show & Skillathon

The State 4-H Dog Show offers 4-H members opportunities to demonstrate their skills and abilities in working with their canine companion through a variety of competitions, including showmanship, obedience, agility, and rally classes. The State 4-H Dog Skillathon is also offered as an opportunity for 4-H members to test their knowledge of a variety of dog care topics.

State 4-H Dog Show & Skillathon

Companion Cat Science

Companion Cat Science is a self-paced learning opportunity offering educational information about caring for and showing cats. The online course is great for middle-school-aged youth but is open to all youth regardless of age who are looking to learn more about cats and the 4-H cat project. Companion Cat Science is a great resource for anyone interested in caring for or learning about cats in 4-H whether they own one now or not!

Companion Cat Science

Dog Showmanship Video Series

The Dog Showmanship Video Series includes maneuver descriptions, demonstrations, and general information for youth interested in learning more about dog showmanship. The short videos are intended to help youth while practicing with their dogs in preparation for 4-H showmanship.

Dog Showmanship Video Series

Video Companion Animal Showmanship Contest

The Video Companion Animal Showmanship Contest provides 4-H members an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills of working with their companion animals, such as cat, ferret, guinea pig, or rodent.

Video Companion Animal Showmanship Contest

Companion Animal Judges Workshop

Nebraska 4-H Companion Animal Judges Workshop is an online training opportunity for adults interested in judging 4-H companion animals. Additionally, the online judges training course is a great resource for 4-Hers interested in learning more about how their companion animals will be judged at fair. This online course provides information about judging cat, rabbit, and poultry.

Companion Animal Judges Training

Advisory Committee

The Nebraska 4-H Companion Animal Advisory Committee is comprised of volunteer and Extension representatives from across the state who provide guidance, support, and assistance in carrying out program activities in the interest of the 4-H Youth Development and companion animal program.

Advisory Committee



Are you showing an animal at the county fair? YES—Read on!

Requirements:

Nebraska 4-H youth age 8-18, enrolled in any of the livestock projects below are required to complete YQCA annually either Instructor-Led or online at <http://yqca.org/>

- ◆ Beef (bucket calf, feeder calf, breeding beef, market beef)
- ◆ Goat (breeding meat goat, dairy goat, meat goat)
- ◆ Sheep (breeding sheep, market sheep)
- ◆ Swine (breeding swine, market swine)
- ◆ Poultry
- ◆ Rabbit



Contact the Ext. Office to book an Instructor-Led Class for your 4-H club!
308-946-3843

YQCA
YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS

Youth enrolled in the following projects must complete YQCA: Beef, Dairy, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, Swine. Each youth must complete YQCA annually. Instructor-Led \$3 per youth or online at <http://yqca.org/> \$12 per youth.

PRE-REGISTER!
By 5:00 p.m. the weekday prior to class!
402-694-6174 Hamilton County Extension Office
308-946-3843 Merrick County Extension Office

A parent or guardian MUST ATTEND with the youth 9-11 ages 8-12!

Instructor-Led Class Dates

Class Number	Date	Time	Location
1	Sunday, February 27, 2022	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Hamilton County
7	Monday, February 7, 2022	6:00pm - 7:30pm	Hamilton County
13	Sunday, February 27, 2022	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Catholic Church, Aurora
?	Friday, July 8, 2022	10:00am - 1:00pm	Hamilton County

Look for 2023 Instructor-Led Class Dates Coming Soon!

Watch the county Facebook pages for more classes possibly to come.

Jr. Leaders Journal

For all 4-H members ages 13-18 years!



2023 Tentative Plan



- ◆ Feb. 19 –5:00 p.m., Officer Elections & Committee Chairs
- ◆ March 13 –7:00 p.m., Banquet, 4-H Building
- ◆ March 16 –Cake Walk @ Pancake Feed, 4-H Building
- ◆ April –Road Trip to UN-L or Park Survivor w/Hamilton Co.
- ◆ May –Escape Room or Park Survivor w/Hamilton Co.
- ◆ June –Help with Summer Workshops
- ◆ July –Fair Prep Meeting, 4-H Building
- ◆ July 30 –Judge Clover Kids Exhibits at Fair, 4-H Building
- ◆ Sept. –Fall Cookout w/Hamilton County
- ◆ Oct. –Review Clover Kid Record Books, 4-H Building
- ◆ Oct./Nov. –Achievement Party
- ◆ Nov. –Friendsgiving w/Hamilton Co.
- ◆ Dec. –Merrick/Hamilton Lock-In, Merrick 4-H Building

Leader Ledger

For all 4-H Leaders Past, Present, & Future!

Coming Soon!
4-H Leader, Volunteer & Parent Training

⇒ Club Leader Resources



- Club Meeting How-To
- Club Activities & Projects
- Curriculum, Activities & Lesson Plans

⇒ Thank you club leaders and volunteers for all your help

getting your club's file in order! If you would still like help getting your club back on track for the 2023 4-H year, call or email the Ext. Office, we're here to help you, 308-946-3843 or merrick@unl.edu



Clover Kids Corner

For all 4-H members ages 5-7 years!

Learn More at...

Monthly meeting for 4-H Clover Kids and family to learn about a Clover Kid project 4-H has to offer!

Clover Kid Club!



Registration link for monthly Clover Kid Club will be delivered via email and on Facebook. Be on the look out!

More info coming soon! 



Fan your SPARK!

February-March:

Stampede's Horseless Horse SPIN Clubs:

No horse required, just an interest and willingness to learn about horses! Sign-up using the QR code:

- ⇒ 5:30-6:15 p.m. INTRODUCTION TO HORSES
- ⇒ 6:30-8:00 p.m. STAMPEDE QUIZ BOWL
- ⇒ 4-H Building –Conference Room
- ⇒ Wednesdays in February & March



Stampede is a group of state contests for youth interested in horses. For more information scan the QR code, check out the link, or come to the SPIN Club:

<https://4h.unl.edu/horse/stampede>



Coming May-June:

PASE (Premier Animal Science Experience) SPIN Club:

No livestock required, just an interest and willingness to learn about livestock!

**If you have a burning desire to learn more about a specific 4-H project, contact the Ext. Office today, 308-946-3843.*



YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE INVITED TO THE 2023 MERRICK COUNTY 4-H MONTH SCAVENGER HUNT

Come and learn more about Merrick County 4-H while getting a chance to visit different businesses throughout the county! Each town has different businesses that are displaying QR codes that when scanned will provide you with a fun fact or task pertaining to Merrick County 4-H. To find the businesses, get your first clue for each town at the Merrick County Extension Office!

Scavenger Hunt will run from March 6th 2023 - March 27th 2023

Families who complete all business stops will be entered into a drawing for the following prizes:

1st prize - \$100 4-H Food Stand Voucher, 2nd prize - \$50 4-H Food Stand Voucher, 3rd place - \$25 4-H Food Stand Voucher

Questions? Contact the Merrick County Extension Office at 308.946.3843
1784 Fairgrounds Rd, Central City, NE 68826



SCAVENGER HUNT

Monday, March 6—Monday, March 27

Prizes

- 1st—\$100 4-H Food Stand Voucher
- 2nd—\$50 4-H Food Stand Voucher
- 3rd—\$25 4-H Food Stand Voucher

Indoor Archery:

Tuesday Night Practices

- ⇒ Nov. 1—Feb. 28, 4-H Building
- ⇒ 6:30-7:45pm, 4-H age 8-11yrs
- ⇒ 7:45-9:00pm, 4-H age 12-18yrs

Merrick County Junior Contest

- ⇒ Tuesday, February 21, 2023
- ⇒ 6:00 p.m. @ 4-H Building

4-H age
8-11 yrs

Merrick County Int. & Senior Contest

- ⇒ Tuesday, March 7, 2023
- ⇒ 6:00 p.m. @ 4-H Building

4-H age
12-18 yrs



BB Gun, Air Rifle, Air Pistol:

Looking for Instructors! Contact the Ext. Office if you are interested in learning more, 308-946-3843!



SHOOTING SPORTS



Four practices with a Certified Shooting Sports Instructor are required to compete in Merrick County shooting sports contests.

Shooting Sports Instructor Certification Workshops

- ◆ For more information go to:
- ◆ <http://4h.unl.edu/shooting-sports/>



Shotgun:

Practices

- ⇒ Sportsman's Club
- ⇒ 4-H age 10-18 years
- ⇒ 4:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Sundays, Feb. 5-March 5
- ⇒ Thursdays, starting March 9




Merrick County Contest

- ⇒ Saturday, April 22, 2023
- ⇒ 1:00pm Contest
- ⇒ 12:30pm Check-in
- ⇒ Sportsman's Club

.22 Rifle, Small Bore Pistol:

Looking for Instructors! Contact the Ext. Office if you are interested in learning more, 308-946-3843!





2023



4-H Pancake Feed & Jr. Leader Cake Walk

**TO-GO
Option Available
INSIDE!**



Thursday, March 16, 2023

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

4-H Building, Central City

Free Will Donation

Support 4-H, take advantage of the TO-GO option INSIDE!


Cake Walk- 5:00 p.m.– until goodies are gone
\$1 for 2 tickets or \$5 for 12 tickets



Proceeds go towards
Educational Programming,
4-H Scholarships and CWF!



Jr. Leader Cake Walk



Shift Times
(Please arrive 10 minutes before your shift starts.)

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.


Thursday, March 16
5:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.
4-H Building, Central City

Please **remember to bring** either:

- ⇒ TWO (2) decorated small cakes or
- ⇒ TWO (2) half dozen plates of decorated cookies or
- ⇒ TWO (2) half dozen plates of decorated cupcakes


Please contact the Ext. Office 308-946-3843
or text Kara 308-940-1033 with questions.

Set-up:
*Wednesday, March 15
*4:00–6:00 p.m.
*4-H Building



Annual Activities Fundraiser


Register Here:



We will happily take goodie donations from any 4-H family!
Drop-off at the Extension Office March 15 or 16 during office hours.


MARCH MERRICK COUNTY 4-H MONTH!

How will you CELEBRATE?




N

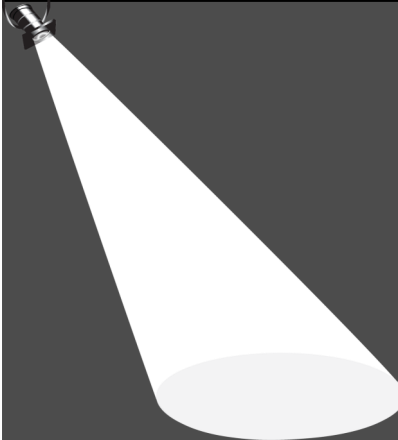
EXTENSION
Merrick County



Earn a
\$10 Food Stand Coupon
to the
2023 Merrick
County Fair!



DUE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15!





Spotlight

ON

4-H

MARCH MERRICK COUNTY 4-H MONTH!





4-H Members!
We need your help!


We want to SPOTLIGHT YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 4-H!


Please fill out the four (4) questions by WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15!

We will turn your answers and pictures into posters that will be hung up during the Pancake Feed to help promote 4-H!

<https://go.unl.edu/23Spotlight>
 Questions, 308-946-3843 or email merrick@unl.edu

Thank you so much for your help, you will receive a \$10 Food Stand Coupon to use during the 2023 county fair!





EXTENSION

Merrick County

MERRICK 4-H TIMES

Thank a 4-H VOLUNTEER

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE 4-H PROJECT?

Thank a 4-H SPONSOR OR DONOR

Thank a 4-H PROFESSIONAL

4-H SPIRIT DAY

NEBRASKA 4-H MONTH

I BELONG

Thank a 4-H VOLUNTEER

Thank a 4-H SPONSOR OR DONOR

Thank a 4-H PROFESSIONAL

MARCH MERRICK COUNTY 4-H MONTH!

How will you CELEBRATE?

- ✿ 4-H SPIRIT DAY
Wed, March 1
- ✿ 4-H VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY
Wed, March 8
- ✿ 4-H SERVICE LEARNING WEEKEND
Sat, March 11 - Sun, March 12
- ✿ 4-H SPONSOR & DONOR APPRECIATION DAY
Wed, March 15
- ✿ 4-H PROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION DAY
Wed, March 22
- ✿ 4-H SPIRIT DAY
Wed, March 29

N EXTENSION Merrick County

@MerrickCo4HNe
twitter

Instagram
merrickcounty4h

Merrick County 4H, Nebraska (UNL Extension) Non-Profit Organization

LIKE US ON facebook

December: Adelyn Blasé, Alaric Frey, Alexis Ericksen, Anna Schmierer, Bailey Greving, Caleb Whalen, Callie Wright, Carl McHargue, Connor Bearnes, Elijah Glause, Elise Bearnes, Ella Birnie, Kate Zanger, Kaydence Dettman, Keiton VanWinkle, Kylie Talbott, Landen Purvis, Leo Brandes, Lilly Lautenschlager, Marlie Mundt, Olivia Walling, Peyton Earl, Regan Burkhardt, Savannah Glause, Traegen Forbis, William Peters, Zane Koziol **January:** Amelia Wright, Caroline Johnson, Carter Broekemeier, Cole Brandes, Dustyn Douglass, Dustyn Martens, Dylan Roberts, Harper Wissing, Harvey Reimers, Izayah Eckstrom, Josie Root, Kaley Krug, Landon Zmek, Londyn Ziemba, Maci Beck, Morgan Friedrichsen, Noah Eckstrom, Paisyn Edwards, Sarah Musil, Shelby Hostler, Stormie Weathers, Taylyn Greving **February:** Brady Kuck, Brayden Ternes, Brooklyn Horton, Claire Detlefsen, Erik Blomstedt, Ezra Eckstrom, Harper Fish, Isaac Rowe, Jackson Friedrichsen, Jonah Parde, Kinren Etherton, Maddie Dexter, Maxwell Myers, Molly Blanchard, Sam Morrison, Sierra Schneider, Vandaley Foulk **March:** Amelia Buhlke, Aubrey Krug, Audrey Zmek, Avery VanWinkle, Briggs Whalen, Brook Klein, Charles Peters, Colby Schneider, Emma Schuele, Emma Zanger, Emmitt Hanquist, Erik Samuelson, Hailey Brandes, Hailey Pfeifer, Hannah Pfeifer, Luke McHargue, Nolan Mildenstein, Sophie Frenzen, Taori Tate, Teagan Horton, Teha Tate, Will Johnson



MERRICK COUNTY

4-H Public Speaking & Presentation Contest

Speech, PSA (Public Service Announcement) & Presentations

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023
6:30 P.M.

4-H BUILDING
1784 FAIRGROUNDS RD, CENTRAL CITY

Contact Extension Office for contest information!
308-946-3843 or merrick@unl.edu

Register here by
NOON, Monday, April 3



EXTENSION

This activity is partially funded through Merrick County 4-H Council, 1784 Fairgrounds Rd Central City, NE 68826, (308) 946-3843. The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



2023 MERRICK COUNTY RATE-OF-GAIN WEIGH-DAY
MARKET SHEEP & GOAT
4-H & FFA
MERRICK COUNTY 4-H BUILDING
1784 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD, CENTRAL CITY



RATE-OF-GAIN CONTEST

THURSDAY, MAY 18

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

MERRICK COUNTY 4-H BUILDING
1784 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD, CENTRAL CITY

MERRICK COUNTY EXTENSION
308-946-3843
merrick@unl.edu
1784 Fairgrounds Rd, Central City, NE 68826

REQUIREMENTS:

- ALL 4-H & FFA planning to compete in the 2023 RATE-OF-GAIN CONTEST at the Merrick County Fair will be REQUIRED to WEIGH IN at the OFFICIAL MERRICK COUNTY RATE-OF-GAIN WEIGH-DAY.
- A SCRAPIES TAG MUST be in the animal's ear, and a picture will be taken for ID's.
- Questions, contact the Merrick County Extension Office.

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



February 12, 2023 — May 6, 2023

For more information please contact the Extension Office 308-946-3843 or email merrick@unl.edu



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12 February 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's	13 7pm Extension Board, 4-H Building	14 6:30-7:45pm Archery Practice 8-11yrs. 7:45-9pm Archery Practice 12-18 yrs.	15 5:30-6:15pm Intro to Horses; 6:30-8pm Quiz Bowl: Stampede SPIN Clubs, 4-HB	16	17	18
19 1:30-4:30pm Market Beef Rate-of-Gain Weigh-in ONLY 5pm Jr. Leader Meeting, 4-H Building	20 Office Closed—President's Day	21 6pm Junior Indoor Archery Contest, 4-HB	22 5:30-6:15pm Intro to Horses; 6:30-8pm Quiz Bowl: Stampede SPIN Clubs, 4-HB	23	24	25
26 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's	27	28 9am Proclamation Signing, Courthouse	1 March 5:30-6:15pm Intro to Horses; 6:30-8pm Quiz Bowl: Stampede SPIN Clubs, 4-HB	2	3	4
5 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's	6 SCAVENGER HUNT! DUE UNL Horse Stampede Entries Ext. Office 7pm 4-H Council Meeting, 4-H Building	7 SCAVENGER HUNT! 6pm Int. & Senior Indoor Archery Contest, 4-HB	8 SCAVENGER HUNT! 5:30-6:15pm Intro to Horses; 6:30-8pm Quiz Bowl: Stampede SPIN Clubs, 4-HB	9 SCAVENGER HUNT! 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's	10 SCAVENGER HUNT! 10am YQCA, Hosted by Prairie Creek, 4-H Building	11 SCAVENGER HUNT!
12 SCAVENGER HUNT!	13 SCAVENGER HUNT! 7pm Jr. Leader Banquet, 4-H Building	14 SCAVENGER HUNT!	15 4-6pm, Cake Walk, SET-UP, 4-HB 5:30-6:15pm Intro to Horses; 6:30-8pm Quiz Bowl: Stampede SPIN Clubs, 4-HB	16 SCAVENGER HUNT! 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's Club 5-8PM PANCAKE FEED, 4-H Building	17 SCAVENGER HUNT!	18 SCAVENGER HUNT!
19 SCAVENGER HUNT!	20 SCAVENGER HUNT!	21 SCAVENGER HUNT!	22 SCAVENGER HUNT! 5:30-6:15pm Intro to Horses; 6:30-8pm Quiz Bowl: Stampede SPIN Clubs, 4-HB	23 SCAVENGER HUNT! 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's	24 SCAVENGER HUNT!	25 SCAVENGER HUNT! Horse Stampede & Chick Days, UNL Ani. Sci. Complex
26 SCAVENGER HUNT! 1pm YQCA, Hosted by Homesteaders, Palmer Fire Barn	27 SCAVENGER HUNT!	28	29	30 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's	31	1 April 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Workshop; Ord, NE
2 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Workshop; Ord, NE	3 6:30pm County Speech Contest, 4-H Building 7:30pm 4-H Council Meeting, 4-H Building	4	5	6 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 4:30pm Shotgun Prac., Sportsman's	21	22 1pm County Shotgun Contest, Sportsman's
23	24	25	26 7pm Extension Board, 4-H Building	27	28 Office Closed—Arbor Day	29
30	1 May 7pm 4-H Council Meeting, 4-H Building	2	3	4	5 Cornhusker State Trap Shoot—Doniphan	6