

#05 | 30 May, 2023

Otoe County 4-H  
Council Meeting  
Wednesday, June 14th  
7:00PM

# Tips on Tap



## JUNE 15TH DEADLINE:

- Youth enrolled in 4-H Online
- All Livestock ID's due to office
- Poultry, Rabbit, Companion Animals, Dog ID's due to office
- Clover Kid's Livestock ID's due to office
- Clover Kid's Poultry, Rabbit, Companion Animals, Dogs ID's due to office.
- Horse ID's due to office
- YQCA completed and certificate to office
- Nebraska State Fair Nominations

**Favorite Foods Revue**  
**Thursday, June 8, 2023**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Kimmel Event Center**

Bring your own card table  
4-H Members need to plan a menu suitable for an indoor or outdoor meal. One food is prepared by the 4-H member should be brought to the revue along with a table setting, centerpiece, menu card, and recipe card.





**WELCOME**

**Open House - Meet the New Staff  
Wednesday, June 14th, 1:00 to 7pm**

***ELIZABETH DUNN-4-H EDUCATOR***

***STEPHANIE STEPHENS - 4-H ASSISTANT***

***JENNA KNAKE-SUMMER INTERN***

**Superintendents:  
Plan to pick up  
your notebooks  
and learn about  
the changes for  
this year's fair.**

**Parents:  
Bring along livestock ID  
sheets and turn them in.**

**Looking forward to seeing you all.**

# Thank You

For all of the help during our staffing transition. I truly appreciate all of you who helped me get thru the winter alone and not affect any of our programs. I'm thrilled to have a full staff in the office again and look forward to the great new energy for Otoe County Extension and 4-H!

Let's have the best FAIR ever!!!!

*Cheryl*



# Elizabeth is here in the office, please come to the Open House and meet her!

## Her email is [edunn8@unl.edu](mailto:edunn8@unl.edu)

**Hey! I am Jenna Knake, daughter of Dennis and Amy Knake. I just finished my freshman year at UNL, but I am a graduate from Syracuse High School. At college I am majoring in Ag. education and minoring in the Engler entrepreneurship program. I have participated in the Otoe county**

**4-H for over ten years. I was always busy showing horses, cattle, static exhibits and a variety of other contests. 4-H was a huge asset for my growth and I am so excited to make an impact on our youth this summer! I am happy to help in any way I can, so please feel free to swing into the office and say hello. Can't wait to see you all this summer!**



**AKR's and  
Frontier  
Cooperative  
generously  
donated  
t-shirts to  
every 4-H  
member!**



***You can pick up your t-shirts here at the office after June 1, these shirts are the "official" show shirt for this year's fair, but since you only get one shirt and some kids show on multiple days, the previous green and black shirts will also be allowed.***

# Instructions for Otoe County Fair Entries

<https://otoe.fairwire.com>

The website is now open for all contests, animals, static, FFA and Clover Kid entries.

1. Go to <https://otoe.fairwire.com>
2. Click on the blue "Sign In" tab in the upper right hand corner to begin setting up your account. If you used this system last year, you should be in the system.
3. Select entries/exhibits, once you select a department, the division field will appear. Once you select a division, a class field will appear with a drop down menu from which to choose the class. Follow the fairbook for the correct departments, divisions, etc.
4. Add each entry to your cart, there are no fees associated with any entries, and you can have as many as you want to have.
5. Checkout
6. Submit

If you have any issues with submitting your entries, please come see us at the office and we will help. We also have fair books if you need them!

# 2023 New Classes and notes:

New Dog Class- Groom and Care. Page 7/ Fair Book

Shotgun Trapshooting Contest - Sunday, July 9, 2023 Page 10/Fairbook

Beef Fitting Contest- after the Beef Show,  
Page 9/Fairbook

***Make sure you enter for these classes above online.***

*All members signed up for clothing projects will receive the packet regarding the Fashion Show after June 15th in the mail. The \$15 challenge is included in this mailing, if you want to participate, you must be enrolled in any clothing project. Shopping in Style projects must be enrolled in the Shopping in Style project.*

**Double Check you have all the projects marked to cover the exhibits you make at the workshops before June 15th!**

**Please do not tie horses in the arena at anytime during the fair. Thank You!**



Do you know what it takes to pick the best fruit and vegetables out at the grocery store? Or do you know what judges are looking for when they judge your plants at the county fair? Have you ever wondered, what plant is that!?! We are excited to offer the opportunity to learn these and other important horticulture skills through the Online Horticulture Contest. The contest will be available June 2-16, 2023 at: <https://go.unl.edu/online4hhortcontest>.

Horticulture judging contest consists of three parts. The first is identification of plant material. Participants identify the plants by common name from a plant list. Specimens may be alive or preserved plant parts like stems, twigs, leaves, flowers, seeds, fruits, roots, bulbs, tubers, or plant products.

The second is a knowledge portion, usually in the form of a true/false or multiple choice quiz. Questions will test the contestant's knowledge of cultural practices for horticultural crops, plant science, pesticides, horticultural careers and other topics related to the production, processing and consumption of horticultural crops.

The last portion is judging or placings. This is where four different plants, plates of vegetables, or containers flowers are ranked from best to worst based on a set of criteria. Classes are judged on the basis of condition, quality, uniformity, true-to-type, and size.

More information about the Nebraska State contest along with a list of study materials can be found in the Fairbook <https://4hfairbook.unl.edu/fairbookview.php/contests/45>. Here you can find the written study materials for the knowledge portion, follow links to plant pictures for help with identification, and read how judging of plant material is done.

## Club Booths

This is the year for all clubs to put up a booth explaining their history. If you want to reserve space, please let the office know. Booth size is 4' x 6' x 6'. They must be in place by 7:30pm on Wednesday to be judged.

## Fair Ground Clean Up Saturday, July 22nd

Clean up day this year is Saturday, July 22nd starting at 8:00am and go until all is done?

Please make sure to check in with the Superintendents for a list of things that need to be done. When one area is finished, please make sure to help out in other areas. Some items you can bring to help: Weed eaters, leaf blowers, shovels, rakes, gloves, push brooms, pliers, buckets, and rags.





# 2023 Multi County

## 4-H Music Contest Winners:



### Senior Vocal Solo:

Sierra Goracke - **GOLD** (purple ribbon)  
Dakota Andrews - **SILVER** (blue ribbon)  
Daisa Smidt - **SILVER** (blue ribbon)

### Junior Vocal Solo:

Riley Speckman-McCoy - **GOLD** (purple ribbon)  
Cameron Pfeiffer - **SILVER** (purple ribbon)  
Brynn Yaussi-Crisler - **BRONZE** (purple ribbon)  
Abigail Bennie - Blue Ribbon  
Mathis Hortsman - Red Ribbon  
Cason Andrews - Red Ribbon

### Senior Vocal Duet:

Maci Smidt - **GOLD** (purple ribbon)

### Senior Instrumental Solo:

Alex Buddenberg - **GOLD** (purple ribbon)  
Daisa Smidt - **SILVER** (purple ribbon)  
Willia Fritz - Blue Ribbon  
Maci Smidt - Blue Ribbon

### Junior Instrumental Solo:

Jolie Kriefels - **GOLD** (purple ribbon)  
Sabrina Buddenberg - **SILVER** (purple ribbon)  
Abigail Bennie - Blue Ribbon

### Senior Instrumental Duet:

Adree Case & Payton Brandt - **GOLD** (purple ribbon)



# N EXTENSION





CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE OTOE COUNTY FAIR

# COLORING CONTEST

Anyone **age 16 and under** can draw/color their favorite memory of the Otoe County Fair to be displayed at the fair and possibly win a prize!

Drawing no larger than 8.5x11 inch sheet of paper.

Include your **name, age, and a 1 sentence description** of the drawing/memory.

Submit your drawing to the **extension office** no later than **June 15th**.

Attend the **150th Otoe County Fair celebration** after the parade on July 29th (approx. 5:00 pm) in the Kimmel Building to see if you won a prize!! Will be divided into age groups, and the top prize is a pass to the inflatables/games on the fairway!





## THE \$15 CHALLENGE REPORT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

1. Where did you purchase your outfit?  
 Consignment store       Goodwill Store  
 Garage sale       Salvation Army Store  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where do you plan to wear the outfit you selected?
3. If the fiber content label is still there and readable, what is the fiber content of the garment(s) you selected?
4. If the care label is still attached, what kind of care is required for the garment(s) you selected?
5. Total cost of all pieces: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please attach your receipt to the right edge of this report form.
6. Tell the story of how and why you purchased this outfit.
7. Did you alter/enhance or embellish the garment(s)?  Yes  No  
If yes, explain what you did, why you did it, and list any additional costs.
8. Please attach a narrative for the Fashion Show. Type or print four (4) sentences or a minimum of 30 seconds you would like said about you and your outfit. You can include how and why you purchased your outfit.

# Youth Crop Scouting Competition



Youth will:

- ▶ Learn how to scout corn and soybeans!
- ▶ Obtain knowledge that will be helpful in future agricultural careers!
- ▶ Network with University and agricultural professionals!

Cash Prizes & Awards  
Given To Top Teams

Details found at  
[cropwatch.unl.edu/youth](http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth)

For More Information contact,  
Brandy VanDeWalle, Extension  
Educator at

[brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu](mailto:brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu)  
or 402-759-3712.

Sponsored by the Nebraska Independent  
Crop Consultant Association, Ward  
Laboratories Inc., UNL's Doctor of Plant  
Health program & the NE Soybean Board  
in collaboration with Nebraska Extension



## AUGUST 2, 2023

EASTERN NEBRASKA RESEARCH &  
EXTENSION CENTER  
Near Mead, NE

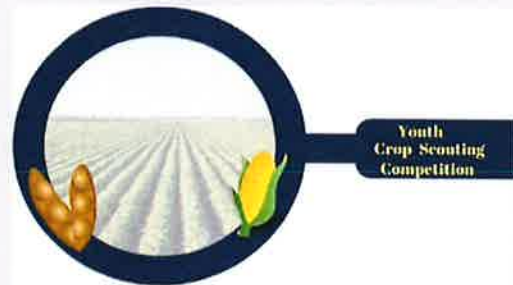
Open to youth who have completed 5-12<sup>th</sup> grades

Registration and set-up begins at 8:15am and the  
contest will wrap up around 1:00 p.m.

Registration due July 15th

REGISTER AT:

<https://go.unl.edu/cropscouting>



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INDEPENDENT CROP  
CONSULTANT ASSOCIATION




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.



**SATURDAY, 24 JUNE**  
**6:00-8:30 PM**

# pool party



**FREE ENTRY, WATERMELON FEED**  
**AQUA CENTER OF SYRACUSE**  
**1180 CHESTNUT**  
**SYRACUSE, NE 68446**

**SPONSORED BY THE OTOE COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL**



# Tips for winning the blue ribbon

By Terrel Buck

Picture this - you're in the holding pen, waiting for the judge to let you into the ring to show for champion showman. Are you confident that your pig will let you show to the best of your ability? Your pig is a major factor during showmanship, and the only way to be sure that your pig is ready for the challenge is to do your homework. Here are a few ideas that will help you prepare for when you step into the ring.

**Spend time with your showpigs.** Begin working with your showpigs when they weigh 80 to 90 pounds. Start walking the pigs in small groups. After they become comfortable with walking, begin walking them by themselves in an open field. Spend time brushing and rubbing your pig to calm it down. The more time you spend with your pig, the better it will perform on show day.

**Train your pig to show.** I'm sure everyone has heard the old sayings: "You perform like you practice" and "You reap what you sow." Well, the same applies to showpigs. Walk your pigs in an open area, and use the same commands and show stick as you would in the ring. Practice showing your pig to a tree or other object and pretend it's the judge. The practice you do at home isn't just for the pig, but also for you.

**Weigh your pig.** Find out the weight limit for your target show and begin planning early. Know how much your pig is gaining and how much it needs to gain to reach the ideal weight for your show. This tip is especially important for older showpigs that may exceed weight limits.

**Condition your pig's skin.** Wash your project regularly, especially if your pig is white. Many show supply companies carry

purple soaps that work well on white pigs. Use a soft-bristle brush when washing the pigs, as this creates less irritation to the skin.

Conditioners are very important to your pig's skin. At least two weeks prior to me show, begin applying conditioner daily to the pig's skin. Nearly every show supply company makes a product that will work effectively.

The most important thing you can do for your pig's skin is to provide a good, clean living environment. A clean environment will not only help with the skin condition, but it is vital for the pig's growth and freshness of appearance at the show.

**Clip your Showpig.** The secret to clipping is to make your show project look natural. When clipping, don't make obvious lines anywhere on its body. This makes the pig appear unnatural. Before clipping, check the show's rules and regulations. Make sure clipping rules don't exist. Do all of your clipping before you go to the show. This will reduce the pig's stress while at the show.

**Tips for show day.** Show day has arrived. You are appropriately dressed with a brush in your pocket. When the judge first sees your pig, it should be clean and well groomed. The judge's first look is the most important; therefore, it is essential that the pig moves at a slow pace, so the judge can effectively evaluate it.

After the judge has viewed the pig, take it to the other end of the ring, so your competitors

have the same opportunity for the judge to view their projects. When the entire class is in the ring, keep your pig 10 to

15 feet in front of the judge and moving at all times. Remember to anticipate where both the judge and your pig are going to be.

Everyone needs to pick a comfortable showmanship style. In most successful styles, the driver is close enough so that he or she can touch the pig with the pipe at all times.

Chances are you began showing because you wanted to have fun and win a ribbon. Now, many years later, your focus is on one thing-winning the blue ribbon.

I, too, strive to win, but I don't let that stop me from making friendships that will last a lifetime. I agree with Jennifer Shike, who once wrote, "Don't be afraid to make competition fun. It's so easy to get caught up in trying to win, that you forget why you're really in the ring. If you aren't out there because you love it, then you aren't out there for the right reason. I've always believed that the happiest people don't necessarily take home the blue ribbon."

Whether you are a beginner or a veteran, hopefully, this will help you. Remember, the key to success is hard work. If you are working hard and doing your homework prior to the show to get your pig ready, the awards you receive will mean more to you. On the other hand, if you aren't doing your homework, I suggest you get started. Your competitors already have.



# Lessons found in failure

This past week I saw a news report about our First Lady wanting to invite the University of Iowa's women's basketball team to the White House. It made the news because they were the runner-up to Louisiana State University's women's basketball team in the NCAA tournament. Really, it is no big deal and I supposed it is the First Lady and President's prerogative on who they invite. However, it stirred up some controversy and I understand why.

Normally only the champions are invited to the White House, so this is something new. I saw many voice an opinion that this was not a good precedent to set and I guess I agree with them. I also agree that it is a statement of where our society is headed, and that is what bothers me the most.

I have seen it in many of our youth activities. It is the idea that no matter what, everyone should receive a trophy. It is something that has bothered me for a while now.

We are worried about the damage that not succeeding will do to a young person, to the point we will not let them fail. We have been told that competition is bad, and no one should ever be last. Recently, it seems like society is saying it is not good to be successful or to be the best at something. The emphasis is that everything should be fair and we should all be equal.

I am sorry, folks. That is not how the world works - or at least that is not how the world should work. Winning is not bad and losing is not bad for you.

Let's start with losing because I have had far more experience with that. Yes, I



**Glenn Brunkow**  
Dust on the Dashboard

have had more disappointments in my life than successes, and I am OK. Not coming out on top is often the best way we learn.

I heard once that we learn through experience, and most of it bad. I completely agree. I do not know how much I have ever learned through success. Often, the few times I am successful, I mistakenly think I have things figured out. Whereas when I fail, I take a long, hard look at what I have done.

I have to say that one of the best things my parents ever did, and I hope it is something I have done for my kids, is to let me fail. If I had a problem with a classmate, coach or teacher it was on me to figure it out. If I did not put the effort into a project or a sport, then I stood at the bottom of the class and watched as someone else got the award or the playing time. Sometimes it was because I did not work hard enough or practice often enough, but at other times I learned that I was not talented in that area and others were simply better. That, in itself, is a valuable lesson we all need to learn: we all have talents and things we are good at. We also have things we are not so good at. Life and genetics are not always fair.

The few times I have been successful or come out on top, I have also learned valuable lessons. I learned that it is fun to win. It can be rewarding, but it also comes with a great deal of responsibility. The feeling of winning is much sweeter if you have had to work hard and learn from mistakes along the way.

I also hope that because those successes were not many, I learned how to be humble in victory. Success is something that is hard earned, even if you are talented. That is why I like to try to learn from those who have reached the top of the mountain - examining what they did that I can learn from, instead of being jealous or, worse, critical of success. We should hold them up and try to learn from champions.

Losing is hard. Whether you were second or last, it is tough to deal with. I get that we do not want our children to be disappointed, but that pain serves a purpose. It should be motivation to learn and work harder. We should be there to be sympathetic but also encourage our children to learn from their mistakes or to find their real talents. That is tough to do as a parent but it is the best thing we can do for our kids.

I admit that I am very competitive and I don't like coming in second. I think that is a good thing, and that is what makes our nation so great. We are built on being competitive and coming in first. I hope we never lose that.

Telling everyone that they are winners all the time does no one any good. If the University of Iowa's women's basketball team is invited to the White House, I hope they have a great experience. They had a tremendous season. However, I also hope that we will not water down the celebration of winning and champions, because that is what motivates all of us to be better.

*Glenn Brunkow is a fifth-generation farmer in the Northern Flint Hills of Pottawatomie County in Kansas. He was a county Extension educator for 19 years before returning to farm and ranch full time. He can be reached at editorial@midwestmessenger.com.*

**Do you ever think,  
"Gosh, I would really  
like to meet Glenn in  
person?"**

*Probably not, but if  
you need a speaker  
for your next event  
with a humorous,  
hopeful message,  
then I am your guy!*

To schedule a speaking engagement, contact:

**Glenn Brunkow**

785-458-8282 • gbrunkow@gmail.com

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# June

# 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Wood Burning Art Workshop 10	2	3
4	5 Simple Table Runner Workshop 8:30 AM	6	7 <i>Open House</i> Fish Cleaning and Cooking 10am 4-H Council Mtg 7pm	8 Favorite Foods Revue 6:30 Kimmel Center	9	10
11	12 An Agronomy Degree? 9 Genealogy for Kids 1:00 Cyber Security 9 and 1	13	14 <i>Open House</i> Fish Cleaning and Cooking 10am 4-H Council Mtg 7pm	15 <b>DEADLINE DAY</b> Pillow Workshop 8:30	16	17
18	19 Saltwash Workshop 9 Horse Advancement-	20 Pillowcase Fever 8:30 Cake Decorating - 9:00	21	22	23	24 Pool Party - Syracuse 6:00 PM
25	26 Showmanship Clinic Flea Market Flip 3:00	27 CLOVER KID CAMP 9 and 1	28	29	30	