

2024 Platte County 4-H Contests

Communication Event (Speech, Impromptu, PSA, Presentation, Video)

Contest Date & Time: Sunday, April 7, 2024; 4:00 p.m.

Location: West Education Center, Room 205, Central Community College, Columbus

Registration: Online pre-registration required. Deadline to register is March 20, 2024.

Speech Contest Guidelines:

- Provide youth the opportunity to write and prepare a speech on a topic related to their 4-H experience.
- Speakers are broken down by age categories. Time limits and topics are stated on registration.
- Many speakers in the Public Speaking Contest have given speeches in other contests. This is fine; however, previous speeches may not be used verbatim for the 4-H contest. It is okay to use the same ideas from a speech previously delivered in competition, but it must be 4-H related. Enough changes should be made to make that speech new to the speaker and the audience. 4-H public speakers may not use an old speech written by a sibling, other 4-H member, or anyone else.
- Acknowledge the source of information used in the speech. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference but should not be quoted directly unless you tell the audience your source.
- **Organization:** Introduction, body and conclusion.
- Use of visual aids and props are not allowed.
- **Delivery:** Eye contact, timing, gestures and posture.
- **Voice:** Clear tones, correct volume and good pronunciation.
- Dress appropriately. Do not wear costumes or special effect clothing.
- No team speeches are allowed.
- Online Resources: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>
- 4-H'ers who are 10 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for Premier Communication Event (State Contest). Youth must be selected at County Contest to compete in Premier Communication Event.

Impromptu Speech Contest Guidelines:

- This competition gives youth the opportunity to write and present a speech around a 4-H related topic that will be randomly selected the day of the competition.
- Youth will have no more than 15 minutes to develop a speech on the selected topic.
- Participants will then deliver the speech to judges and audience members.
- Judges evaluate the subject, organization, and delivery of the speech.
- 4-H'ers who are 10 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for Premier Communication Event (State Contest).

Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest Guidelines:

- All PSA's are 60 seconds in length.



- The state theme for the 2024 PSA is "**Discover Your Spark in Nebraska 4-H!**" and should be incorporated in the PSA.
- All radio PSA's must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska at any time of the year.
- All 4-H PSA's must include the following tag line within the last ten seconds of the PSA: "**Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu.**" The tag line is included in the 60 second time limit.
- Sound effects and public domain music may be used. Copyrighted material may not be used.
- All PSA's must be the original work of the presenter. Contestants may not use PSA's written and provided by the state or national staff.
- No team PSA's are allowed.
- Scoring is based on the content of the material and delivery.
- Appearance and gestures are not judged.
- Online Resources: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>
- If selected to go onto Premier Communication Event (State Contest), radio PSA's will be submitted electronically as a .wav or .mp3 audio format. No CDs accepted.

Presentation Contest Guidelines:

- All 4-H Presentations should be related to how the 4-H youth is learning about science, agricultural literacy, citizenship or healthy living through their 4-H experiences or 4-H projects.
- Presentations must include an introduction (the "why" portion of the topic), a body (the "show and tell" portion of the topic) and a conclusion/summary (the "what" portion of the topic).
- Each participant is required to wear the 4-H chevron, 4-H emblem or 4-H shirt.
- All categories require the presence of the contestant. Categories available: Show 'n Tell and Illustrated Presentation.
- Online Resources: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>
- 4-H'ers who are 10 years old and older as of January 1 of the current year will be eligible for Premier Communication Event (State Contest). Youth must be selected at County Contest to compete in Premier Communication Event.

Video Communication Guidelines:

- The video communication contest allows youth to create a multi-media video around a theme related to 4-H. Judges will be evaluating on both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production.
- Youth may use a phone, laptop or tablet to create a multi-media piece around the theme: "**Discover Your Spark in Nebraska 4-H!**"
- Sound effects, public-domain music, and graphics can be used. Copyrighted materials may not be used.
- Online Resources: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>
- For county contest only, the 4-H'er must be present to play video. If selected to go onto Premier Communication Event (State Contest), the video will be electronically submitted as MP4 files.



Livestock Judging Contest

Contest Date & Time: May 23, 2024; 9:00 a.m.

Location: Colfax County Fairgrounds, Leigh

Registration: Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. morning of contest

Contest Guidelines:

- 4-H members of all ages are eligible to compete. Contestants are broken down by age as of January 1st into Novice, Junior and Senior divisions.
- When judging livestock, the breeding or market animal selected as the most ideal should have the most of the best. Species judged are two beef cattle, two sheep and two swine classes.
- There are three aspects to a livestock judging contest 1) placing of a class; 2) answering questions; 3) oral reasons.
- Carefully study the livestock, make the final decision after careful observation and analysis, place the class on a scorecard.
- Five questions will be asked on three of the six classes.
- Presentation of oral reasons allows defense of placing on a class. Prior to giving a set of oral reasons, an accurate set of notes should be taken.
- Practices are held at various locations within Platte County prior to the contest. Contact Extension Office to get on the judging practice mailing list.

Contest Resources:

- [Livestock Judging Guide](#) EC20597 (published by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Cost: \$6.95)

Grass & Weed Identification Contest

County Contest Date & Time: June 27, 2024; 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Contest Location: Platte County Ag Park (Club Room), Columbus

Registration: Due the Tuesday before the contest

Contest Guidelines:

- Members do NOT need to be enrolled in a related 4-H project to participate.
- Contestants identify 25 to 30 plant specimens by accepted common name as listed on the “Grass, Forb, Weed, Crop ID List.” Two points per specimen.
- Contestants are given an answer sheet with plant names to use during the contest.
- Specimens will consist of a minimum of leaves and stem, but may also include flowers, seed, or roots structures.

Contest Resources:

- 4-H Grass, Forb, Crop and Weed ID List (*PDF File*)
<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/Contests/2021%204-H%20Weed%20Grass%20ID%20List.pdf>
- All grass and weed plants on the list are described in either the [Weeds of the Great Plains](#) (published by Nebraska Department of Agriculture, (402) 471-2394, Cost: \$35.00) or in [Common Grasses of Nebraska](#), EC170, (published by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Cost: \$5.00). There is not currently a crop identification guide available.



Entomology Identification Contest

County Contest Date & Time: June 27, 2024; 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Contest Location: Platte County Ag Park (Club Room), Columbus

Registration: Due the Tuesday before the contest

Contest Guidelines:

- Members do NOT need to be enrolled in a 4-H Entomology project to participate.
- Contestants identify 25 - 30 insects by common name as listed on the specimen list provided. A key list of eligible insect orders and insects is given to participants. They then write the corresponding letter (for order) and number (for insects) on an answer sheet.
- Every 5th specimen has a multiple-choice insect knowledge question about the insect, such as the meaning of the order name, type of antennae, legs or mouthparts, kind of metamorphosis, or the scientific name of the specimen.
- Contestants are not allowed to touch specimens during the contest.

Contest Resources: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/platte/platte-county-4-h-resources/>

- Insect ID Contest-[Specimen Study List](#), State Fair (.pdf file)
- Insect ID Contest-[Specimen Study List w/images](#), State Fair (.pdf file)
- Insect ID Contest-[Blank Answer Sheet](#), State Fair (.pdf file)
- Insect ID Contest-[Key for Answer Sheet](#), Rev 2018 (.pdf file)
- [4-H Entomology, University of Nebraska Extension 4-H Curriculum 4H4120, 2015](#), (published by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Cost: \$7.95)
- [Insectigator: Bug or Insect - Do You Know the Difference? University of Nebraska Extension 4-H Curriculum 4H4110, 2009](#) (published by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Cost: \$7.95)

Horticulture Identification Contest

County Contest Date & Time: June 27, 2024; 2:45 – 3:45

Contest Location: Platte County Ag Park (Club Room), Columbus

Registration: Due the Tuesday before the contest.

Contest Guidelines:

- Members do NOT need to be enrolled in a 4-H horticulture project to participate.
- The contest consists of three parts:
 - ✓ **Identification**- Identify plants by common name as listed on the “I.D. Answer Sheet.” Participants are provided a list with plant names to use at the contest. The list may be obtained ahead of time to study. Participants identify 40 samples – 10 flowers & houseplants, 10 landscape ornamentals, 10 fruits and nuts, and 10 vegetables (list revised 12/5/2013). Specimens are live or preserved plant parts such as leaves, flowers, seeds, fruits, or bulbs. Plants cannot be touched during the contest. 2 points/specimen.
 - ✓ **Judging** - Participants rank 2 classes of plants from best to worst based on criteria used to judge horticulture at fairs. Each class is worth 50 points. Classes are judged on condition, quality, uniformity, true-to-type, and size. (See 4H226, revised 2013). Classes may be fruits,

nuts, vegetables, herbs, flowers, houseplants, or woody ornamentals. Scores are determined by a Hormel calculator. Oral reasons will not be given by contestants.

Contest Resources:

Study resources available at: <https://go.unl.edu/njhahortstudymaterial>

Tree Identification Contest

County Contest Date & Time: June 27, 2024; 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Contest Location: Platte County Ag Park (Club Room), Columbus

Registration: Due the Tuesday before the contest

Contest Guidelines:

- Members do NOT need to be enrolled in a 4-H tree/forestry project to participate.
- Contestants identify 25-30 tree specimens by accepted common name. Trees listed in the Tree Identification Manual (4-H 332) are used for the contest.
- Contestants are provided an answer sheet with tree names to use during the contest.
- *Junior contestants* identify specimens by tree genus (common name) only; i.e. maple, pine, oak, ash. There will be duplicates in the contest.
- *Senior contestants* identify specimens by genus and species (common name); i.e. red maple, Norway maple; ponderosa pine, Scotch pine; red oak, bur oak; etc.
- Specimens will be branches with leaves; flowers, seeds, or other parts may be included.
- Contestants are allowed to touch specimens during the contest.

Contest Resources:

- Tree Identification Manual 4-H 332 (published by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Cost: \$5.50)
- <https://marketplace.unl.edu/ne4h/curriculum/environmentaled/4h332.html>

Watch monthly 4-H newsletters for contest registration information.