

New 4-H Member Check List

- _____ Choose a local 4-H club and contact the leader
- _____ Complete online enrollment through 4-HOnline & pay fee by deadline

- _____ Choose 4-H project(s)
- _____ Purchase 4-H manuals, if applicable
- _____ ID animals by the deadline, if applicable
- _____ Attend 4-H meetings regularly
- _____ Become a parent volunteer for your club or the 4-H Program
- _____ Work on 4-H projects take advantage of workshops and contests
- _____ Read the 4-H newsletter and visit the 4-H website frequently

Stay in the Loop!

We want you to know what's going on in the Saunders County 4-H Program throughout the year.

Make sure to look for our weekly news blast, "Saunders County 4-H Smore," sent to your inbox every Friday & our quarterly 4-H Newsletter (available in hard copies as well).

We're also on Facebook!

Follow & Like @SaundersCountyExtension4h to get updated

information on events, deadlines, and fun facts about 4-H.

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Welcome to 4-H!

Saunders County Welcomes You!

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We're excited about your interest in Saunders County's 4-H program. 4-H is the nation's largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organization empowering **6 million young people in the U.S.** and reaching **1 in 3 youth in Nebraska.**

We hope that this booklet will help to navigate your interest & questions about 4-H. This booklet will give you an overview of 4-H, 4-H programs, opportunities & resources to make your experience a memorable one!



Nebraska Extension in Saunders County

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We're glad you're here!

Dear Prospective 4-H Family—

Welcome to 4-H in Saunders County! Your family is about to become a part of one of the biggest youth development programs in the nation. With over 130,000 youth enrolled in Nebraska 4-H, families like yours have made 4-H the largest out-of-school educational program in the country.

The purpose of this welcome packet is to give you an overview of the Saunders County 4-H Program and the opportunities we have available in order to give you a remarkable 4-H experience. But please keep in mind that this is just an overview. The best way to stay informed about the happenings in Saunders County 4-H is to sign up for our weekly newsletters and “Like” us on Facebook; you can find out how to do this in the next few pages.

In the beginning, learning about 4-H and its benefits can be overwhelming. That's why we're here—to show you step-by-step how you can get involved. Whether you're looking for volunteer opportunities, summer activities, or a good group of friends, 4-H is here for you. After all, our motto is “To Make the Best Better.”

The Nebraska Extension-Saunders County office is where our 4-H program is administered . Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. We're here to help, so feel free to call or stop by with any questions.

Again, thanks for your interest and welcome to 4-H!

Sincerely,

Cole Meador

Melisa Konecky

Extension Educator

4-H Assistant



Frequently Asked Questions

What does “4-H” stand for?

- The “H’s” stand for: head, heart, hands, and health. Club members pledge their Head, Heart, Hands, and Health (the 4 H’s) as they recite the 4-H pledge. Take a look back on page 4 for the 4-H Pledge!

Do I have to live on a farm to join 4-H?

- **No!** 4-H is a program for all youth with all interests to join and participate whether they live on a farm or in the city. We offer robotics, rocketry, woodworking, fashion, sewing and baking, small animal and pets, wildlife, among MANY others.

Can we join 4-H at any time during the year?

- **Yes!** However, all youth must be enrolled by June 15 (June 1 for horse project members) to be eligible to exhibit at Fremont Fair, Saunders County Fair and other competitive 4-H events. Horse project members entering into the district and horse shows must be enrolled by May 10.

What is a Clover Kid?

- A Clover Kid is a child between the ages of 5 and 7 years of age on January 1 of the current year. Clover Kids are full 4-H members that are able to participate in a range of projects and activities, as well as exhibit at the county fair.

Do boys and girls attend different clubs?

- **No!** All 4-H clubs are open to both boys and girls.

What is the 4-H year timeline?

- The 4-H year begins in February and wraps up in November. Our 4-H year kicks off with a service-learning day and celebration in the spring. 4-H'ers have the option to work all year long to complete their fair projects—we encourage this to ensure all desired projects are completed in time for county fair. Then we end the 4-H year with a county wide 4-H Achievement Celebration around November.



Page 10 Additional Opportunities

Saunders County 4-H offers many contests and events each year. For a complete list of events, please visit the Saunders County website at: <http://saunders.unl.edu>

4-H Public Speaking Contest

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/saunders/contests/>

- Youth research, write and present an individual speech and/or public service announcement.

Achievement Application - due October 1

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/saunders/contests/>

- Youth create a portfolio summarizing their 4-H experiences for the year using the standard 4-H Career Portfolio form.

Diamond Clover Project – due October 1

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/saunders/contests/>

- The program's overall goal is to provide 4-H members a rich and diverse learning experience. The program consists of six levels that require a 4-H member to plan and report a broad range of age-appropriate accomplishments.

College Scholarships- due March 1

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/saunders/contests/>

- Various college scholarships are available each year. The application forms and deadlines are found on our website under **SCHOLARSHIPS**.

4-H Council-

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/saunders/4-h-council-ambassadors/>

- Volunteers, parents, and youth are encouraged to apply and run for 4-H Council in June/July. They represent the interests of youth, parents, and leaders in Saunders County.

Saunders County 4-H Ambassadors

- Teen 4-H members can apply to become an ambassador where they will work to promote 4-H within the county, focus on leadership and communication skills, and receive a college scholarship!

Summer Camps/Classes/ Workshops-

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/saunders/camps-classes/>

- Classes, camps and workshops are offered throughout the year. They are available on both a state and county level.

Visit
<https://go.unl.edu/d64z>
for a full 4-H calendar.



What is 4-H?

4-H is a community of young people who are learning *leadership, citizenship* and *life skills* by using the “learn-by-doing” approach. 4-H encourages youth to reach their full potential through learning experiences, completing projects, and volunteering.

In Nebraska, 4-H is provided through Nebraska Extension in cooperation with county governing boards, the University of Nebraska, and the United States Department of Agriculture, alongside the Land Grant University in Nebraska. Through these strong partnerships, Extension Staff can deliver 4-H and other agriculture and community services to youth, families, and producers across the state.

4-H offers:

- ◆ Clubs & Camps
- ◆ School Enrichment
- ◆ Afterschool Programs
- ◆ Leadership Opportunities
- ◆ Community Engagement & Volunteering

4-H prepares youth to further their education and investigate potential careers by developing life skills such as: problem solving, critical thinking, communication, respecting self, and others, serving the community, choosing healthy lifestyles and managing challenges.

4-H is a family affair—this means fun and learning for everyone! Families are encouraged to attend meetings and complete projects together. In 4-H, youth need the support and encouragement of their families. By working together, 4-H grows and enhances family strengths and bonds.

But that's not all! Stay connected through our newsletters



& Facebook to get all opportunity dates and deadlines.





What's First?

One of the oldest and most traditional parts of 4-H is getting involved with a club! To better understand 4-H and create a fun and memorable experience, we encourage new members to join a club. On the next page we have added a list of clubs that are accepting new members for the current year. Think a club isn't for you? Not a big deal. Youth can be enrolled as Independent 4-H'ers; which just means they don't belong to an existing 4-H Club but can still participate in all 4-H events. However, we do encourage new members to join a club, as the first couple years in 4-H can seem overwhelming and the guidance of the club leader can help substantially with your 4-H year success! You can contact a club leader directly to inquire about joining, or you can call our office for further assistance.

Want to start a 4-H club of your own? Contact the Nebraska Extension-Saunders County office and we can guide you through the process.



County Fair

One of the major highlights of the year is being able to exhibit projects and talents learned at the county fair; then hopefully to have their exhibits selected for competition at the Nebraska State Fair!

When is the county fair?

The Saunders County Fair is July 25- August 1 2021

Who can enter the fair?

Any enrolled 4-H member can participate in the fair. The Nebraska Extension-Saunders County office will release the fair book in May, which lists all 4-H classes that projects can be entered in. Typically, the fair book does not change year to year, so you can look at previous fair book to get ideas on projects to enter.

How do we enter exhibits into the county fair?

Static Exhibits: Static exhibits are simple. You will need an entry card, which can be picked up at the Extension office, for each project you are entering. Each entry card will be filled out according to the fair book and the coordinating project. All static exhibits will be taken to the county fairgrounds on entry day, which is typically the Tuesday evening during the County Fair.

Livestock Exhibits: The Extension Office will announce the dates 4-H project animals need to be identified/tagged by. It is your responsibility to have your animals properly identified by the deadline.

How are exhibits judged?

Static Exhibits: All exhibits are judged earning a purple, blue, red, or white ribbon. Clover Kid entries are not judged, they receive a participation ribbon. Youth will receive a cash premium based on ribbon placing.

Livestock Exhibits: All exhibits are judged earning a purple, blue, red, or white ribbon. Additional rosettes and premiums will also be presented.

When are exhibits released?

Entries are released the last evening of the fair.



Projects

Projects are the heart of 4-H. We know that the projects allow the youth to gain knowledge and develop interests, skills, an understanding and appreciation of growth and change. But we also know that a lot more is happening than “just” learning new skills—project work encompasses the four H’s that we have planted our roots in: head, heart, hands & health

What is a 4-H project?

All 4-H members have an opportunity to select one or more projects to learn about throughout the year. A project is simply a topic the member wants to learn more about. Typically, a 4-H member will end up with one or more finished exhibits from each project selected to enter the county fair. With nearly 150 projects available, there is something for every child.

While there is not a limit on the number of projects a member can select, we do encourage parents/guardians and leaders to help guide members in setting realistic, yet challenging, goals.

How to select a 4-H project?

4-H members are able to pick their own projects based on their interests. A list of project areas available can be found at:

<http://4h.unl.edu/project-resource-central>

What is a 4-H project manual?

Project manuals are provided to guide a particular 4-H project. You are not required to utilize a project manual; however they can be very helpful. You can acquire project manuals through www.4-hmall.org or look through our office inventory.



4- clubs accepting new members

Club	Leader	Leader e-mail	Leader Phone	Club Type	Area
4-H Country Club	Rick Stava	prstava@yahoo.com	402-276-5869	Wood Working, Canning community service	Wahoo/Ceresco
4-H L.I.F.E.	Angie Mayberry	mayberry02@yahoo.com	402-320-8652	static/livestock	Wahoo
Ashland Gun Club	Chuck Schulte	cschulte2@cox.net	402-658-1955	Trap Shooting	Ashland-Greenwood, Gretna, Elkhorn, Omaha
Ashland Shamrocks	Tammie Wall	tamaraswall@gmail.com	944-2770	Static Exhibits	Ashland-Greenwood
Awesome Green Helpers	Jenna Hanson	deerewife75@gmail.com	624-5051	Static / Sm. Animals - cats/rabbits	Wahoo / Mead
Banner Bandits	Shayna Meyer	shayna_truax@hotmail.com	402-560-2916	Livestock-Baking-canning-crafting	Raymond Central/Davey/Waverly
Bullseye Archery	Dylan Tegtmeier	dylantegtmeier@gmail.com	402-418-1086	Archery	County Wide
Colby Creek 4-H	Ann Gillentine	sitabeat4me@aol.com	402-419-8372	Horse/Vet Science/Clover Kid/Wildlife/Photography	Wahoo / Millard / Papillion / Gretna/ Cedar Bluffs/ Homeschool
Colon Hustlers	Jim & Tammie Ondracek	ondracekt@gmail.com	402-480-1979	Livestock	Wahoo, Fremont, Home School
Midbluffs Livestock	Sarah Kruse	sarahchromy@yahoo.com	402-720-2643	Livestock/All	Cedar Bluffs/North Bend Central, Wahoo Public, Fremont Public
Oak Creek Kids	Roger & Jennifer Benes	rib8998@hotmail.com	402-430-8836	Livestock / Static	Wahoo / Raymond / East Butler
Piston Pushers	Brian Sanderson	bsanderson1@gmail.com	402-443-2081	Tractor/ATV	Wahoo/Colon/Cedar Bluffs/North Bend/Logan View/Fremont
Platte Valley Kids	Brian & Kim Vech	thevechs@yahoo.com	628-6845	Livestock	North Bend / Wahoo / Cedar Bluffs
Platte Valley Wranglers	Jean Stewart	psjs351@mac.com	944-3483	Horse / Quiz Bowl/ Hippology	County Wide
Ridge Riders	Eva Childers	eva.childers@valmont.com	666-5811	Horse	Morse Bluffs/Cedar Bluffs
Rock Creek Rockets	Sara Hass	s_smoore10@hotmail.com	784-9012	Livestock/Static	Raymond Central / Yutan / Lincoln

Rockin' Wranglers	Stefanie Fidone- Fisher	stefanie.fedone@ci tyofomaha.org	402-306-9344		
Saunders County Hydrostats	Dale & Kristen Nygren	d05266@windstream.net	624-6175	ATV	Wahoo / Mead
Saunders County Robotics	Rick Stava	prstava@yahoo.com	402-276-5869	Robotics & STEM	Wahoo / Mead
Saunders County Single Shots	Chad Lechtenberg	kpolivka2@unl.edu		Air Rifle/BB gun	County Wide
The Shamrockers	Mary Goracke	goracke3@gmail.com	623-4309	Livestock/Static (swine, chickens, gardening, clover kids)	Wahoo
Touhy Livestock	Karri Donahue	karri.donahue@yahoo.com,	402-419-3697	Livestock/ATV/Tractor/Static	Valparaiso/Touhy/Weston/Raymond Central/Wahoo/East Butler
Waggin' Tails	Sue DuBois (Grandgenett)	crazyzoolady_29@hotmail.com	443-4345	Dog	Wahoo / Mead / David City / Ashland
Westside Hustlers	Sharon Konecky	missyk@huskers.unl.edu		Livestock	wahoo, weston
Yutan Shamrocks	Kristan Barta	kbarta@windstream.net	659-8450	Sm. Animals/Static	Yutan

Enrollment

To be enrolled as a 4-H member, youth must be 8-18 years of age on January 1 of the current year, and there will be a \$10 enrollment fee you will have to pay when enrolling online.

Youth ages 5-7 by January 1 of the current year may be enrolled in 4-H as Clover Kids and the cost for them to enroll is \$5, however you will be charged \$10 online. You can use that extra \$5 paid to go towards our Clover Kids camps!

To enroll in 4-H, please visit <http://ne.4honline.com>, create an account and sign-up each child. Through this program you will fill in your information and select the project areas that interest you.

If you are volunteering as a parent/guardian or adult, you need to enroll as well. All 4-H Volunteers must register through 4-H Online (see above) and complete a simple background screening.

After you complete the enrollment process, our office will “accept” your enrollment and you become a 4-H member or volunteer!

Every year you will have to repeat the enrollment process. Typically, Nebraska 4-H Enrollment begins in October and concludes in June.

To participate in 4-H contests and exhibit at 4-H events, you must be enrolled in 4-H by June 15.

If you have questions about the enrollment process, you can do one of the following:

Visit <https://go.unl.edu/32kj>
for a step-by-step tutorial on
how to enroll.

Call the Nebraska Extension-
Saunders County office at
402-624-8030.

**4-H Enrollment Deadline is:
June 15!**



Parent/Guardian Role

4-H wouldn't be the program it is today without the help and guidance of 4-H parents and guardians. 4-H is a family program—a place where adults and children can learn and grow together. In 4-H, you, as the parent/guardian, are very important. For your child to have a great learning experience it requires participation from parents/guardians, volunteers, and many more!

We understand that every family has a busy schedule and sometimes you won't be able to attend an event or volunteer. That's alright! Our goal is for your child to engage in fun learning experiences and develop life skills, but we don't do it alone. Below are examples of how you can get involved.

- Help your child learn to recite the 4-H pledge.
- Attend club functions with your child when possible. ENGAGE! Clover Kids (ages 5-7) should always have a parent attend meeting with them.
- Help your child pick projects they are interested in. Help them set goals that are challenging, but realistic, and allow them to develop their projects with help. Make it a family experience!
- If your child is in a leadership role for your club, help to fulfill their duties.
- Provide transportation for your child to and from 4-H events.
- Watch for volunteer opportunities and get involved as an engaged adult.
- Read the Saunders County 4-H Smore (weekly e-newsletter) to know the details of upcoming events, dates, and deadlines. You will automatically start to receive this newsletter once you have enrolled your child in a Saunders County 4-H club.
- “Like” our Facebook page to stay up-to-date and engaged in our 4-H program. (www.facebook.com/SaundersCountyExtension4h)

We encourage you to share your skills, interests, and availability with your child's 4-H Leader. 4-H has many diverse experiences, which means there is a role for every parent/guardian volunteer. Your 4-H Leader will help you find a role that matches your interests and fits perfectly with your club's needs.