

4-H FAMILY HANDBOOK



For Club Membership in Static and Livestock



Seward County 4-H

Nebraska Extension – Seward County

SEWARD COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM

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4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension – a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provide experiences where young people learn by doing. Statewide, Nebraska 4-H is sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, a division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Seward County 4-H program is supported in part by county commissioners.

Nebraska 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.

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WELCOME TO 4-H

Dear 4-H Family,

Thank you for joining Seward County 4-H. We look forward to your participation in one of the largest youth development programs in the nation. We hope that you enjoy exploring what 4-H has to offer: mastering skills, creating friendships, and having fun.

The Extension staff in the Seward County office collaborates with you and the community in sharing a variety of educational experiences for youth. We also work with the Seward County 4-H Council to provide oversight to the 4-H program as well as training and development for volunteers.

The 4-H program offers many opportunities on a club, county, district, state and national level. As you progress through your 4-H journey, we hope that you will explore those experiences.

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook is designed to provide your family with basic 4-H information, details about Seward County policies, and an overview of the 4-H Year. (Official rules related to the Seward County Fair will be found in the fairbook, which is published later in the year.) Updates, changes, and more detailed information will be in our electronic newsletter, as well as on social media (Facebook, Twitter).

Please keep this handbook and refer to it frequently.

Have a wonderful year in 4-H!

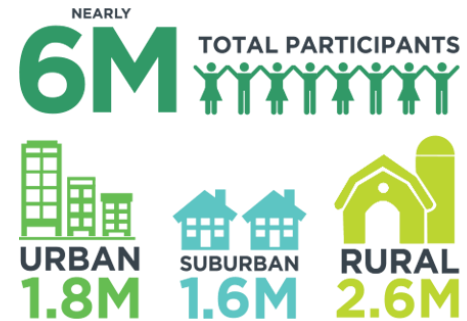
Seward County 4-H Staff & Seward County 4-H Council

4-H BASICS

WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is a community of young people, ages 5-18, across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. 4-H is education for life that uses a learn-by-doing approach. In Nebraska, 4-H is present in ALL 93 counties across the state.

In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us.



4-H WAY

4-H empowers young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime. It's a research-based experience that includes volunteers, hands-on projects, and meaningful leadership opportunities.

4-H COMMUNITY

Young people experience 4-H through school and community clubs, in-school and afterschool programs, and 4-H camps.

4-H PROGRAMMING

Based on their interests, youth develop their own pathway in 4-H. They select from a broad menu of local 4-H programs.

4-H IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

- 4-H youth and their family members are encouraged to attend meetings together.
- Work on projects can take place at home - in the yard or around the kitchen table - with guidance from mom or dad, an older brother or sister, a neighbor, friend, or other adult.
- 4-H'ers need the support and encouragement of their families. Growing together through 4-H enhances family strengths.

4-H MOTTO, EMBLEM, COLORS, AND PLEDGE

4-H MOTTO

"To Make the Best Better"

4-H EMBLEM

The 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf which stands for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.



4-H COLORS

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color and represents life, springtime, and youth. White symbolizes purity and high ideals.

4-H PLEDGE

I PLEDGE

My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
and my health to better living,
for my club, my community, my country, and
my world.

4-H AGE AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Nebraska 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.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

4-H Membership





1. Member is between 8 and 18 on January 1.
2. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member is 18 on January 1 and turns 19 before December 1.

Clover Kid Membership

Clover Kids are between the ages of 5 and 7 on January 1. Clover Kids is the officially recognized program in Nebraska for children under the age of 8. The program is designed to provide this age group with a variety of educational and recreational experiences.

THE 4-H PROGRAM YEAR

The 4-H program year begins on October 1 and runs through September 30 of the following year.

4-H METHODS OF PARTICIPATION			
			
A 4-H Club is an organized group that meets regularly to focus on a series of educational experiences. Official enrollment is required.	School Enrichment programs offer non-formal, hands-on educational experiences in classrooms in support of school curriculum.	Afterschool programs meet between 3-6 PM to offer youth a safe, fun, and educational experience through hands-on activities and 4-H curriculum.	Special interest programs include short-term experiences, such as workshops or clinics, as well as experiences focused on a single topic or interest.

4-H ENROLLMENT

PROCESS

4-H club members (including Clover Kids) are required to officially enroll through the 4-H Online system. By enrolling, youth can participate in the county fair, county contests, the Nebraska State Fair, district and county contests and events, and additional statewide programs.

HOW TO ENROLL

1. Visit v2.4honline.com
2. If new, create a new account for your family.
3. If returning, login with your user name and emails.
4. Add new information or update personal information.
Phone numbers, address, and email address are all very important and should be updated whenever there is a change.
5. Complete the 4-H Code of Conduct and review waivers. *The waivers will include photo release, shooting sports (if applicable), and survey. Please read Code of Conduct and waivers carefully.*
6. Update clubs and projects. Remove projects that you are not going to take part in during the current program year. Add new projects.



There is a \$5.00 per member enrollment fee in Seward County.

Make sure that the email address you enroll with is the one most frequently checked!

Please enroll by April 1 so that you continue to receive emails, letters, and newsletters. Final Enrollment Deadline for Fair
June 15

Enroll means to sign up to be a 4-H member or volunteer for the year. (It does NOT register you for the fair). Youth and club volunteers MUST re-enroll each year.

4-H PROJECTS

When you enroll in 4-H, your child will need to pick at least one project.

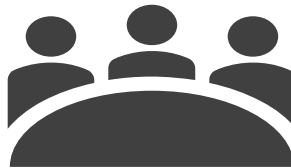
WHAT IS A PROJECT?

A project is centered around a topic of interest to members. Members can choose one or more topics to learn about. There are a whole range of projects for 4-H'ers, everything from animals, to gardening, to safety and more! A project should include a series of learning experiences related to that topic.

PROJECT LEARNING EXPERIENCES CAN BE THIS:



**Independent
Study - 4-H
Manuals**



**Clover College
or Workshop**



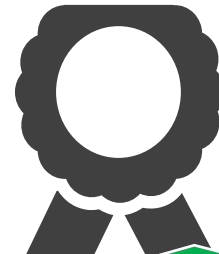
**Field Trip or
Tour**



**Participating in
a Contest**



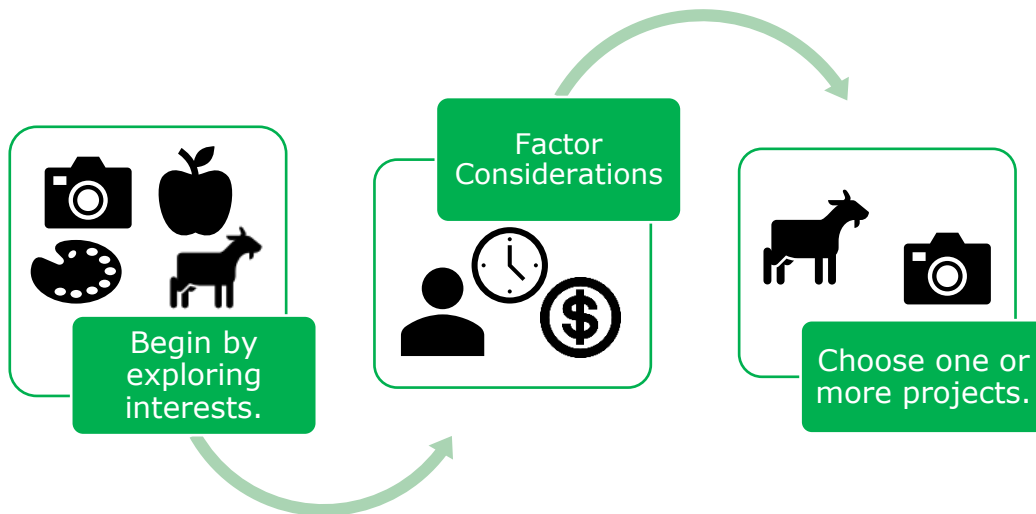
**Giving a
Demonstration**



**Exhibiting
at the Fair**

AND MORE!

SELECTING PROJECTS



WHEN SELECTING PROJECTS, CONSIDER:

- Does it meet your child's needs and interest?
- Is the project appropriate based on the age and ability of your child?
- How much time does the project require?
- Is the project acceptable to parents and does it fit your family's situation?
- How much will the project cost; Is adequate space and equipment available; Are leaders available to help; or Are you, the parents, willing to help your child with the project?

IMPORTANT PROJECT GUIDELINES:

- 1) 4-H members cannot enroll in the same 4-H project area in more than one county or state in the same year.
- 2) They may enroll in different project areas in different clubs crossing county lines. Ex: 4-H'er can enroll in the Horse project in Seward county and enroll in Beef project in another county but CANNOT enroll in the Beef project in both counties.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE AVAILABLE?



The Project Resource Guide is an online tool that can be used to explore over 150 Nebraska projects and resources, and their related educational programs and opportunities. 4hcurriculum.unl.edu/

THE MAIN CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS INCLUDE:

ANIMAL SCIENCE		COMMUNICATION & EXPRESSIVE ARTS	CONSUMER & FAMILY SCIENCES
Beef Cat Dairy Cattle Dog Goat Horse	Poultry Rabbit Sheep Swine Small Animal Vet. Science	Communications Digital Video Photography Presentations Theatre Arts	Clothing/Sewing Consumer Management Fiber Arts Heritage Home Environment Human Development
LEADERSHIP & CITIZENSHIP		ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & EARTH SCIENCES	HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
Citizenship Entrepreneurship Leadership		Conservation Entomology Forestry Shooting Sports Wildlife	Cycling Food & Nutrition (cooking/baking) Food Preservation Physical Education Safety
PLANT SCIENCE		SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY	<p>Within each category, there are levels based on age and experience.</p> <p>Check with the Extension Office for more information about project levels.</p>
Agronomy Horticulture Flowers Gardening		Aerospace/Rocketry Computers Electricity Gear-Tech-21 Geospatial Physics Robotics Welding Woodworking	

First Year Member Project Enrollment - First year members are strongly encouraged to limit their enrollment to 5 projects.

Manuals - Most projects have manuals or resource material relating to the project. Manuals are designed to help the 4-H'er reach the objectives of the 4-H projects they enroll in. They are designed to cover several years of the 4-H'ers experience. You can preview manuals in our office. To purchase – visit the following websites:

<https://shop4-h.org/>

<https://marketplace.unl.edu/ne4h/curriculum>



4-H CLUBS

PURPOSE

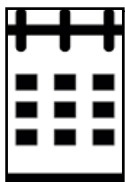
The purpose of a 4-H club is to: provide positive youth development opportunities; to meet the needs of young people; to experience belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity (the Essential Elements); and to foster educational opportunities tied to the Land Grant University knowledge base.

STRUCTURE

- Clubs meet at least 6 times per year. Many clubs meet 9-12 times a year and may be supplemented by project meetings, camps, fairs, and other 4-H learning experiences.
- Clubs must have a minimum of 5 youth members from at least 3 different families.
- Members plan meetings and elect club officers to lead meetings.
- Members present an in-club demonstration or presentation each year.
- Club members complete a 4-H project each year. As a club, members complete yearly service learning or community service projects.

All clubs must be advised by an adult club leader. Leaders may be 4-H staff or volunteers who have been screened and trained in accordance with the [Nebraska 4-H Policy and Procedures Handbook](#).

Leaders or youth must complete and submit the club's financial audits to the local Extension office at the end of each year.



ORGANIZATIONAL LEADER

Provides the overall management and leadership to the 4-H club.



PROJECT LEADER

Conducts and connects youth to meaningful education experiences in a specific project area.

4-H CLUB MEETINGS

Each 4-H club meeting should help youth:

- Acquire new information
- Learn to use leisure time creatively
- Develop social skills
- Acquire leadership and citizenship traits
- Learn to conduct meetings

Meetings enable 4-H members to learn and practice decision making and leadership skills in a group setting by using the knowledge and skills acquired through 4-H. Each member is expected to attend club meetings. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend meetings with their children. Your involvement demonstrates support for 4-H members, keeps members informed on club activities, and enables you to assist volunteers as requested.

WHAT IS A CLUB MEETING LIKE?

Each 4-H meeting normally lasts 1 to 1½ hours and includes business, educational programs, and recreation. Clubs may meet monthly or at any time determined by the club members. Meetings may include a variety of the following items:

BUSINESS

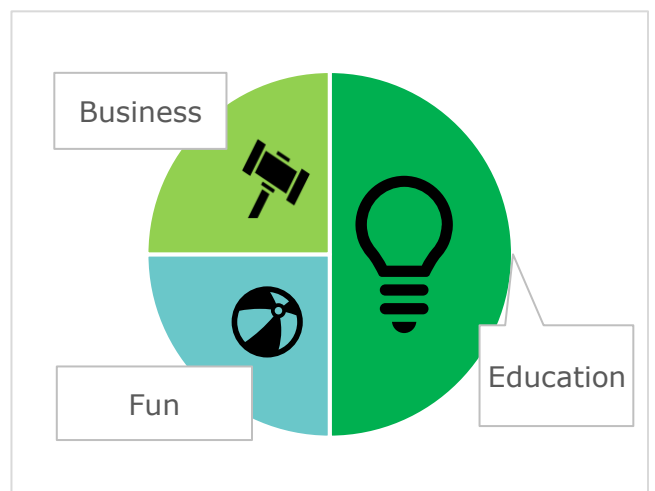
Members learn how to conduct meetings effectively, work with others through committee assignments, and cooperate with others in making decisions.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

This part of the meeting helps members learn more about subjects of interest to the membership. 4-H teaching is “learning by doing.” It can include talks or presentations by members, speakers, work on project books, tours, and more.

TEAMBUILDING & FUN

A variety of fun activities adds enjoyment and enthusiasm at meetings. Ice-breakers and teambuilding games help members get to know each other. Refreshments and celebrations create time to socialize.



4-H PARENTS AND MEMBERS

Parents and families play a critical role in the success of the 4-H program. Youth join 4-H to belong, to do things with their friends, to meet new friends, to have fun, to be recognized as a person, and to achieve. The volunteer can only do so much; children need the support of their parents.

Parent participation in 4-H results in the following benefits:

- Active parent participation can strengthen and broaden the 4-H program in any local club or in any county.
- When parental support is positive, the club is likely to become stronger, larger, and more active.
- In clubs where parental support is evident, individual members receive more personal attention and guidance from leaders and parents.
- Club activities and events will develop and expand with the additional support of parents. 4-H can have a positive influence on the lives of thousands of boys and girls.

This happens only when parents care enough to share their time, efforts, and talents. Below are 4-H member expectations. As a parent, your job is to provide transportation, and provide support for them to meet the following expectations.

4-H MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

- Enroll in 4-H.
- Follow the 4-H Code of Conduct.
- Participate in 4-H club meetings, lessons, and activities.
- Take part in at least one community service activity per year.
- Demonstrate or teach at the club, county, or state level.
- Keep informed of project requirements (livestock ID, Animal Quality Assurance, level testing, and more).
- Complete project requirements by designated deadlines.
- Participate in contests or fair competitions.
- Complete annual records or awards applications.
- Follow through on any elected or designated leadership role.

THE 4-H CODE

Parents, guardians, volunteers, and members are all a part of 4-H. Bring your best to the 4-H experience by following the Code of Conduct. Below is an abbreviated version. All members, parents, and volunteers are expected to follow the Code of Conduct. You sign it each year when you re-enroll in 4-H.



RESPECT

Treat all people and property with respect, courtesy, consideration and compassion. Avoid and prevent putdowns, insults, name calling, swearing, and other language or nonverbal conduct likely to offend, hurt, or set a bad example.



KEEP INFORMED

Keep informed about 4-H program policies and projects, and read materials pertaining to the county. Read the newsletter, follow us on Facebook.



KINDNESS

Recognize that all people have skills and talents. Teach and foster teamwork and discourage selfishness.



FAIRNESS

Be open to ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.



CITIZENSHIP

Obey laws and rules as an obligation of being a good citizen.



GOOD STEWARDS / ETHICAL TREATMENT

Demonstrate the responsible treatment of animals and stewardship of the environment.



RESPONSIBILITY

Not use alcohol or illegal substances (or be under the influence) while working with or participating in any part of the 4-H program.



SAFETY

Provide a safe environment for all parties involved in 4-H. Protect those involved from sexual harassment, physical force, verbal or mental abuse, neglect, or other harmful behaviors.

ANIMAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Animal projects have additional requirements to establish animal ownership, knowledge of animal care, and safety for participants exhibiting in shows. It is the responsibility of youth and parents involved in animal projects to keep informed of requirements.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

To participate in a Seward County 4-H Animal or Livestock Project, 4-H members must complete the following:

- **Enroll** in the livestock project of their choice by June 15. 4-H'ers enrolling in more than one county cannot take the same project in two counties (i.e. Beef is one project, breeding and market animals cannot be shown in two different counties).
- **Properly identify animals** by method of identification and deadlines listed. County Fair identification is due June 15.
- **Quality Assurance Certification:** To exhibit beef, dairy, goat, sheep, pig, poultry, and rabbit at the County Fair, State Fair, or AKSARBEN exhibitors must be Quality Assurance certified by JUNE 15. All members ages 8 – 18 must attend a YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) training in-person or online.

Registration for the training is on-line at <https://yqcaprogram.org>

- **Horse Level Testing:** To participate in horse riding events, exhibitors must have completed the proper level testing by the following deadlines:
 - 4-H State Expo – June 1
 - County Fair – July 10
- **Pre-Enter animal(s)** for the County Fair (June 10) and State Fair (Aug. 10). Watch newsletter for more information.
- **Follow the IAFE** (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) National Code of Show Ring Ethics. *The entire code of ethics is included in this handbook.*

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

4-H'ers planning to exhibit livestock or horse project animals (beef, sheep, meat goat, dairy goat, dairy, rabbit, swine, horse) must turn in Animal Affidavit (ID) forms by June 15 each year. Identifying the project animal is an important aspect of the 4-H project. Horse I.D. to exhibit at State Horse Expo is June 1st.

APPLICABLE FORMS FOR COUNTY FAIR

Breeding Beef Ownership Affidavit

Market Beef Ownership Affidavit

Feeder Calf Ownership Affidavit

Bucket Calf Record Book

Market Lamb Ownership Affidavit

Breeding Sheep Ownership Affidavit

Market Swine Ownership Affidavit

4H F109: Dairy Goat Identification Affidavit

Breeding Doe Ownership Affidavit

Meat (Market) Goat Ownership Affidavit

Dairy Identification Affidavit

Rabbit Ownership Affidavit

Horse Identification Certificate

Cow/Calf Ownership Affidavit

ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS

All applicable information on each form should be completed. There is some information common to all forms, this includes:

- a) Names and ages of exhibitors
- b) Club name
- c) County
- d) Signature of at least one listed exhibitor
- e) Signature and address of parent
- f) Phone number of parent(s)
- g) YCQA certificate number
- h) Premise ID number

Additional information is required for each species.

**ANIMAL AFFIDAVIT/ID FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT:
SEWARD.UNL.EDU**

YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS

YQCA is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars: food safety, animal well-being, and character development.

- YQCA certification is required to participate in county fair and state fair, livestock shows.
- Clover Kids are not required to complete Quality Assurance training.
- DUE: JUNE 15 for beef, sheep, goats, poultry, rabbit, dairy, pigs
- Must recertify each year.
- Failure to complete modules will result in youth being ineligible to exhibit animals.

LOG IN OR CREATE A YQCA ACCOUNT



Online Course YQCAprogram.org



Face to Face YQCA Training
Cost will vary depending on location. Register at
YQCAprogram.org

HORSE LEVELS TESTING

All Horse exhibitors are required to have completed at least Level 1 of the Horse Advancement Levels before they will be allowed to ride in horse events at County Fair. Exhibitors interested in entering roping events must complete Level II. Walk trot exhibitors are exempt from completing horse advancement levels.

Horse Level Testing Consists of:

Club Demonstration
Health Care Reports

Feed Charts
Written Exams

Skills Test

Horse Advancement Levels testing must be done with a certified examiner.

Written exams require an 80% to pass and are taken at the Extension Office. Please call to make an appointment to take the written exams. All Levels testing must be completed by July 10 for County Fair. Study guide information can be obtained from the Extension Office or online at:

<http://4h.unl.edu/horse/advancement>

**IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions)
NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS**

IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial, and national levels.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons, shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.
4. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of drugs. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event, which culminates with the animal entering the food chain, shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations, and rules.
Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested (by the approved laboratory to which it is sent) is the one taken from the animal in question. Its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said

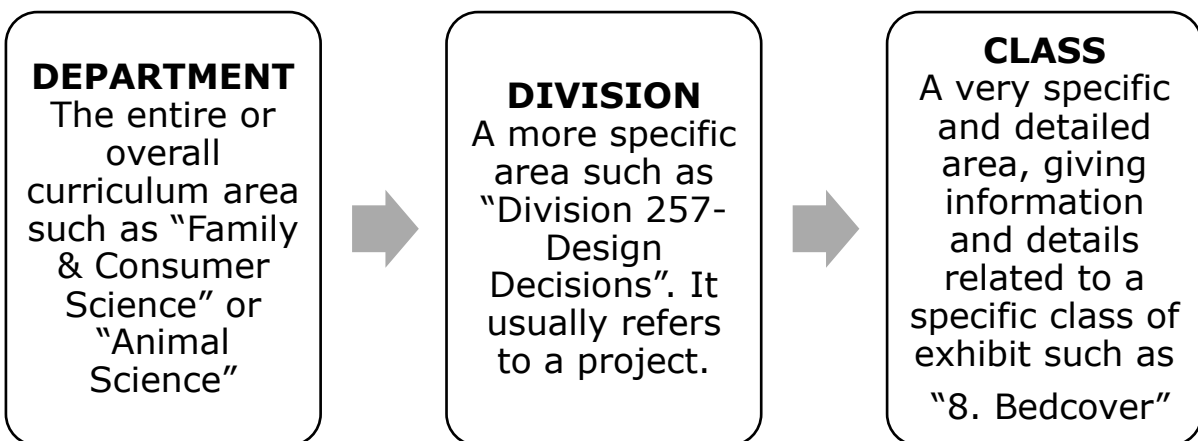
collection and preservation transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise at any hearing in regard to the matter conducted by the fair or livestock show. At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
6. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.
7. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair, or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair, and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect, and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
8. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.
9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.
10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have any disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show against such individuals published in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expositions and any special notices to members.
11. The act of entering an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

THE COUNTY FAIR

The Seward County Fair is a highlight of many 4-H'ers annual experience. It is a community event, showcasing the talents and achievements of youth. Youth take part in contests and share exhibits that are the result of their project work.

FAIRBOOK - This book is usually available online by May. There *may* be a printed version as well. This is your guide for exhibiting at the fair. It will have guidelines of what to include with your exhibits such as extra supporting material. It is important to read the sections of the fairbook that pertain to your project exhibits. The fairbook is made up of Departments, Division Name and Number, and Classes.



** **County Only Exhibits** - Will be denoted in the fairbook with a * sign before the exhibit name in the fairbook. County only exhibits are not eligible for state competition.*

COUNTY FAIR DATES - Held in Seward, NE at the fairgrounds in August (dates may vary). Entry day is typically early in the week with static exhibit judging the following day. Some contests such as Presentations, Culinary Challenge, Shooting Sports, Fashion Show are held ahead of the official start date of the fair. Schedule will be advertised once fairbook is live.

GETTING SIGNED UP FOR THE COUNTY FAIR

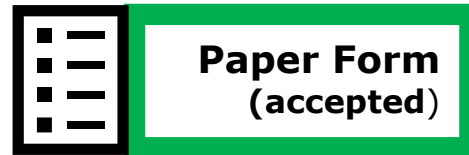
There is a separate registration process for county fair. All entries for County Fair are made prior to the County Fair through a process called "pre-entry". All "Pre-Entries" must be completed by a designated date in which 4-H'ers will indicate to the Extension Office which exhibits they plan to enter at the County Fair.

- Entries are to be made in one of two methods: online entry is preferred, or paper form is available, if needed. The online entry website will be published in the newsletter.
- Computers are available to the Extension Office for online entry. Call ahead to schedule a help session.
- If you are completing paper forms, please note that these will not automatically be mailed to 4-H families. They will be available for print-out from our website or at the office.

County Fair Pre-Entry

Due July 10

**Required for Exhibiting
at the Fair**



Use Fairbook to select exhibits for projects.

Specific Instructions will be in the 4-H Newsletter or Pre-Fair Mailing

Static exhibits are exhibits that are non-animal or livestock related such as clothing, baking, child development, quilts, gardening, cake decorating, etc.

LATE FEE POLICY - 4-H Council has enacted a \$15 per member late fee for animal ID sheets or county fair pre-entries received after the deadline. Fee must be paid within 7 days of missed deadline.

JUDGING IN 4-H

4-H USES THE DANISH SYSTEM OF RECOGNITION

The Danish system uses color to signify different award levels. Ribbons are given to 4-H members as a symbol to represent a level of knowledge/skill mastered in completing and exhibiting a project.

Nebraska 4-H uses the following colors:

- **PURPLE** denotes an exhibit of superior quality that has met and exceeded all the standards. Superior exhibit.
- **BLUE** exhibit exceeds minimum standards. The exhibit shows high quality work but may have some smaller flaws needing improvement. Excellent exhibit.
- **RED** indicate average quality and that the exhibit has met the minimum standards. Some improvements can be made in workmanship, design or expression of what was learned in the project. Good exhibit.
- **WHITE** means the exhibit does not meet all minimum standards. The exhibit can be improved in workmanship, design, or knowledge shared about the project.



Interview judging occurs when the member is present while the judge is evaluating the project. The judge talks with the 4-H member directly about the exhibit. During the county fair, 4-H members will have the opportunity to participate in interview judging if they choose.

RECORDS & AWARDS

NEBRASKA 4-H ACHIEVEMENT APPLICATION

All 4-H'ers are encouraged to keep a record of their 4-H experience. Seward County will primarily be using the Nebraska 4-H Achievement Application.

- Achievement Applications are to be completed and turned in to the Extension Office by **October 1** each year. They are used to apply for county awards, medals, state awards, camp scholarships, or senior scholarships. Achievement Applications will be available online at 4h.unl.edu.
- Please call or stop by the Extension Office for help in completing your Achievement Application.

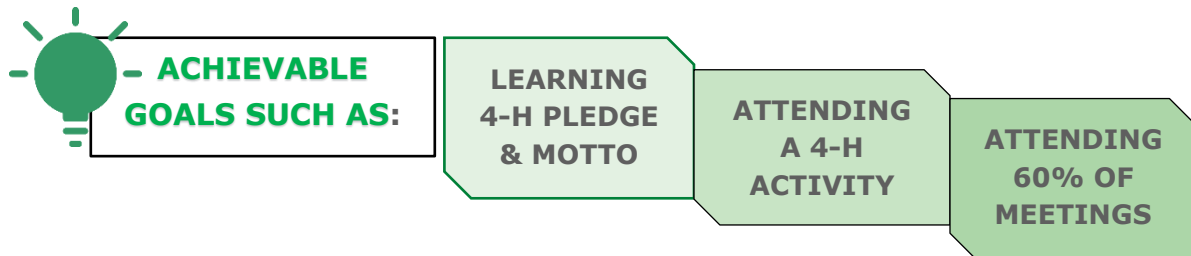
The Achievement Application does not require the use of 4-H covers and may be submitted electronically.



DIAMOND CLOVER GOAL SETTING & REPORTING

The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program is designed for all ages of 4-H members. The program consists of six levels that require a 4-H member to plan and report a broad range of age-appropriate accomplishments. It is designed to enable every 4-H member willing to exert the effort, an opportunity to be recognized, regardless of how they are involved in 4-H.

PLANS: To begin the Diamond Clover program, a 4-H member must complete the plan portion of the Plan & Report Form. It is available at 4h.unl.edu. DUE **APRIL 1** in Seward County.



The plans are saved and upon completion of the accomplishments, are attached to the completed Report portion. To receive pins at Achievement Party, turn in reports by **OCTOBER 1**.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SEWARD COUNTY

SEWARD COUNTY 4-H CONTESTS

4-H contests occur throughout the year and create opportunities for 4-H members to expand their skills. Below is a listing of the main contests held. Others may be added. Watch the 4-H newsletter for updated information about 4-H contests. Most include divisions for Clover Kids.

- 4-H Performing Arts – March or April
- 4-H Public Speaking & PSA – March or April
- Culinary Challenge – July
- Presentations Contest – July
- 4-H Fashion Show – Close to start of fair or during fair
- BB Gun, Archery, and Trapshooting Contests

CLOVER COLLEGES

Seward County hosts a variety of hands-on project learning experiences called Clover Colleges. These workshops will feature a lesson related to a project. There is a separate registration process and fees to cover the cost of supplies. Many clover colleges will result in an exhibit that can be entered in the fair.

ANIMAL CARE CLINICS

4-H'ers enrolled in animal projects can further their knowledge and skills by attending a clinic. Animal care, showmanship, grooming, and judging clinics are offered in Seward and surrounding counties. Species and topics are rotated.

4-H PARTNERS MENTORING

4-H Partners is a livestock/large animal mentoring program. It's for youth who would like to learn about a large animal but are not ready to own one. They are matched up with a mentor and learn how to care for that animal, how to raise it, and how to show it. Registrations are usually due in March or April.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available on the county level for students graduating from high school. Youth must have completed a 4-H Achievement Application or Career Portfolio &

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SEWARD COUNTY

Scholarship Application to be eligible. These are due around the 1st of January.

4-H COUNCIL

The Seward County 4-H Council is made up of both youth and adult members. The 4-H Council is responsible for making the governing policies for the Seward County 4-H program. Youth should be 13 years of age before being nominated to serve on the 4-H Council. Membership includes district and at-large representation. Elections are held annually at the 4-H Achievement Party.

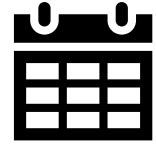
4-H JUNIOR LEADERS

Open to youth 13 and older. This is a 4-H club focused primarily on youth leadership and citizenship. Seward County Jr. Leaders annually plan and conduct 4-H day camp, 4-H Achievement Party, and host various community service projects throughout the year.

FAIR & EVENT SUPERINTENDENTS

Adults and teen volunteers provide leadership to designated areas at the county fair or for specific 4-H events during the year. Please contact the office to volunteer.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES



For County, District & State Participation

Subject to change – watch newsletter for updates.

JANUARY

January 5 – Senior Scholarship Applications Due

MARCH

March 15 – Camp Scholarship Applications due

APRIL

April 1 – Diamond Clover Award Plan Sheets due
•All 4-H'ers including Clover Kids are eligible to apply

JUNE

- June 1 - Horse ID & Level 2 Testing due if showing at State Horse Expo
- June 15 - 4-H Enrollment Due – ne.4honline.com
- June 15 – Animal ID (Affidavit) due for:
 - Beef, sheep, meat goat, dairy goat, dairy cow, rabbit, hog, horse
 - Required by this date to exhibit at county fair
- June 15 – YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) due
 - All 4-H'ers must recertify each year if exhibiting beef, sheep, hog, poultry, rabbit, goat, dairy, or other livestock projects
- June 15 – Livestock ID's (due at Extension Office), DNA, and nominations due online for Nebraska State Fair via showstockmgr.com
- June 15 - All animal ID's and DNA due to Extension Office to exhibit at NE State Fair.

JULY

- July 10 – Fair Pre-Entry Closes
 - Register all exhibits and contests at seward.fairwire.com or by paper pre-entry form
- July 10 – Horsemanship Level Testing due for county fair eligibility (See Fairbook for specific requirement)

AUGUST

August 1 - Horticulture pre-entry closes
August 10 – Pre-Entry for State Fair Livestock and in-person events due online

SEPTEMBER

September 1 - Nominations for Volunteer Awards, Friend of 4-H, Meritorious Service, and Outstanding 4-H Club due

OCTOBER

October 1 – 4-H Award Applications, Career Portfolios, Record Books due
 October 1 – Diamond Clover Report due



THE BIG 4

REQUIRED DEADLINES FOR **COUNTY FAIR** PARTICIPATION.

For Livestock – must complete A, B, C, D each year.

For Horse – must complete A, B, D

For All Other Projects - must complete A & D

*More details for each of these deadlines can be found in other sections of the handbook.



A - JUNE 15

• 4-H ENROLLMENT DUE

- 1 – Enroll online at ne.4honline.com
- 2 – Update club and contact information
- 3 – Select projects for the year
- 4 – **Required** annually to participate in 4-H contests, programs, county, or state fair
- 5 - T-shirt orders due



B- JUNE 15

• ANIMAL AFFIDAVITS / ID FORMS DUE

- 1 – **Required** annually for rabbit, beef, dairy, dairy goat, hog, meat goat, sheep, horse
- 2 – Forms are due in office by 5:00 p.m.



C- JUNE 15

• YQCA DUE

- 1 – **Required annually** for rabbit, poultry, beef, dairy, dairy goat, hog, meat goat, sheep
- 2 – Must recertify every year
- 3 – Course available at yqcaprograms.org or youth can attend a trainer led training. Certificates are due in office by 5:00 p.m.



D - JULY 10

• PRE-ENTRY FOR COUNTY FAIR DUE

- Register all exhibits and contests for county fair
- **Required** for fair participation
- Register online at seward.fairwire.com
- Paper registration form will be available if needed.
- Horsemanship Levels passed

LATE FEE POLICY - 4-H Council has enacted a \$15 per member late fee for animal ID sheets or county fair pre-entries received after the deadline. LATE ENTRIES OR ID SHEETS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 7 DAYS PAST THE DEADLINE. Fee must be paid within 7 days of missed deadline.

