



**Nebraska Extension-Seward County**  
 322 S. 14th St.  
 Seward, NE 68434  
 PHONE: 402-643-2981  
 WEBSITE: [seward.unl.edu](http://seward.unl.edu)

# Seward County 4-H

January 2024 Newsletter

## State Fair Exhibitor Age Changed

In 2023, Nebraska 4-H lowered the age limit for participation in the Nebraska State Fair for all in-person events to nine years of age. That change increased the participation and provided more youth the opportunity to have an engaging learning experience.

Due to positive feedback from the previous year, the decision has been made to change the age of eligibility in 2024 to be 8 years of age before January 1 (of the current year) for all in-person State Fair events (livestock, contests, fashion shows, contests) and other state competitions (Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Expo, PASE, communications contest). Note: there will be some events that will maintain their ages due to specific program rules (shooting sports). Please check information on each specific event as it becomes available.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan. 8 - 4-H Council Meeting @ 6pm
- Jan. 5 - 4-H College Scholarship Applications due by 5PM
- Jan. 13 - Market Beef Weigh Day 10AM
- Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Office Closed
- Feb. 3 - Volunteer Brunch and Learn
- Feb. 19 - President's Day, Office Closed

## NEBRASKA 4-H MONTH!

LET'S GET READY TO CELEBRATE NEBRASKA 4-H MONTH! HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THIS MONTH:

- VOLUNTEER BRUNCH AND LEARN - FEB. 3RD @ 9:30 A.M
- PHONE-A-THON
- 4-H CARNIVAL
- COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
- BAGELS AND JOE "KARMA LATTES" (ALL MONTH LONG)

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH.

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## Holiday Maker Day!



The 8th annual Holiday Maker Day took place on Saturday, December 2nd. We want to thank everyone that participated, volunteered or helped us prepare for the day! We were so happy to have the help of the Concordia Baseball team again this year! They served as great role models throughout the day. We look forward to seeing you all next year! Happy Holidays!

**NEW PODCAST NOW AVAILABLE**

*Early childhood, ages birth to eight, is the most rapid period of development in a human's life, which can leave those surrounding a young child in a sprint to keep up.*

This podcast will:

- Share the latest happenings in early care and education in Nebraska.
- Provide relevant and reliable information to keep you up to date.
- Feature interviews with academic experts, educators, providers, families, or informed community members.
- Release twice a month September through May.

Hosted by:  
Emily Manning,  
Nebraska Extension Educator

LISTEN ON Spotify

Listen on Apple Podcasts

Don't miss out on this captivating podcast!  
<https://go.unl.edu/gliel>

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## VOLUNTEER BRUNCH AND LEARN

All volunteers are invited/encouraged to attend.  
February 3rd  
9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tentative agenda:

- Important! Nebraska 4-H and Seward County updates for 2024
- Ideas for making meetings educational and fun
- All volunteers will receive a special gift for attending



We are excited to announce the fourth year of the Nebraska 4-H Livestock Achievement Program. This additional opportunity for enrolled livestock project youth, is designed to promote all educational aspects of 4-H livestock projects including selection, production, leadership, and exhibition by recognizing youth striving to improve in their livestock project knowledge and leadership.

The program recognizes Members of Excellence across all 4-H livestock project areas, including: beef, sheep, meat goat, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, rabbit, and poultry.

The program consists of three levels that require 4-H members to plan and report a broad range of age-appropriate and project-related accomplishments. For each level, the Livestock Achievement Program provides a list of accomplishments from which 4-H members choose their goals. Each accomplishment is worth a specific number of points. Junior 8-9 submits pictures, poster, presentation, and other learning activities to receive the distinction of Junior Member of Excellence, no point value, Intermediates, ages 10-13, must complete 100 points worth of activities to receive the distinction of Intermediate Member of Excellence. Seniors, ages 14-18, must complete 150 points worth of activities to receive the distinction of Senior Member of Excellence. The Plan and Reports, linked on the webpage, show examples of the project related accomplishments they can choose, or they can identify their own with approval of their local educator.

Applications/Sign up are due June 15th through the application form link on the website. Plan and Reports, as well as Project Records will be due August 1 via the completion form on the website.

Youth completing the achievement program and receiving member of excellence recognition in the various species will be recognized during the Parade of Champions, 4-H weekend at the Nebraska State Fair.

For more information or to apply, go to: <https://4h.unl.edu/livestock-achievement>

Ashley Benes: [ashley.benes@unl.edu](mailto:ashley.benes@unl.edu)

Brett Kreifels: [brett.kreifels@unl.edu](mailto:brett.kreifels@unl.edu)

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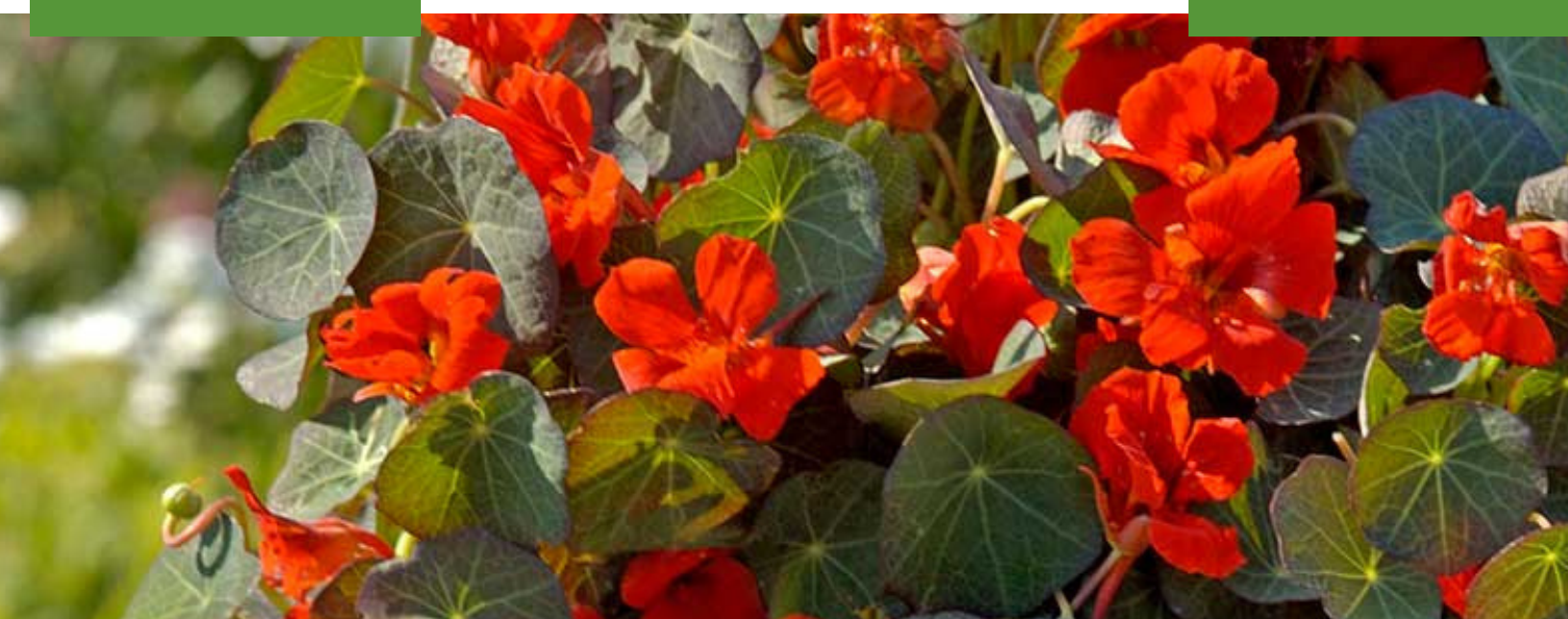


## 2024 Special Garden Project

The 2024 Special Garden Project will focus on Princess of India Nasturtium. This Victorian-era heirloom flower can be grown in a variety of ways including in containers. It provides a splash of color from its scarlet flowers and much of the plant can be eaten.

# SPECIAL GARDEN PROJECT

»» 2024 ««



## PRINCESS OF INDIA NASTURTIUM

### WHAT IS THE SPECIAL GARDEN PROJECT?

This project is open to all youth of 4-H age and it will give them the opportunity to learn about growing, harvesting, and exhibiting this unique flower.

The Special Gardening Project lets 4-H members try their hand at growing unusual vegetables, flowers, and herbs. The project allows experienced 4-H gardeners to grow something fun, new, and different while letting those new to gardening get their feet wet in this project area.

The focus of the 2024 project is the Princess of India Nasturtium. This Victorian-era heirloom flower can be grown in a variety of ways including in containers. It provides a splash of color from its scarlet flowers and much of the plant can be eaten.

**2024  
SPECIAL  
GARDEN  
PROJECT**

# WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT

4-H members participating in the Special Garden Project will:

- Receive a 'packet' of Princess of India Nasturtium (one packet per youth) in March/April

Receive a newsletter about:

Planting & growing nasturtium

Nasturtium problems & insects

Harvesting & using nasturtium

- Be able to exhibit this unique flower at County and State Fair

State Fair Special Garden Project

Educational Exhibit Class G-775-001

State Fair Special Garden Project Fresh Cut

Flowers or Harvested Vegetables & Herbs

Class G-775-002

Other fun county-only ways to exhibit this

unique flower are with a story, poem, or poster. Each county is different so be sure to

check with your local Extension Office.

Complete an evaluation about their growing

experience: <https://go.unl.edu/2024sgpsurvey>



## HOW TO ENROLL

Enroll in Horticulture in 4-H Online and contact your local Nebraska Extension Office to order packets of seeds. The local Extension Office will order and distribute the seeds.

If you have questions, contact Elizabeth Exstrom at [elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu](mailto:elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu) or 308-385-5088

## CONTACT





**NEBRASKA STATE 4-H CAMP**  
Discover. Learn. Grow.

## Summer 2024 CAMP

The power of being  green

<b>CHADRON</b> JUNE 1-5 JUNE 6-8	10-14 YEARS 8-10 YEARS
<b>COZAD</b> JUNE 16-20 JULY 1-3	10-14 YEARS 8-10 YEARS
<b>BURWELL</b> JULY 17-19 JULY 20-24	8-10 YEARS 10-14 YEARS



REGISTER TODAY  
[4H.UNLEDU/CAMPS-REGISTER](http://4H.UNLEDU/CAMPS-REGISTER)



## Check out 4-H Shooting Sports!

Do you have an interest in trying out 4-H shooting sports? Seward County has two shooting sports clubs that invite you to join them!

**Blue River Archers** meet every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 at the Reunion Center. The club provides equipment for use at practice. If you are interested in joining their club, you can contact Jessica Semler at [blueriverarchers4h@gmail.com](mailto:blueriverarchers4h@gmail.com) with any questions.

**10x club** meet every Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm at the Reunion Center. They teach gun safety and allow time for target practice with bb guns, air rifles, air pistols, .22 and shotgun. The club provides all basic equipment to use at practice. If you are interested in joining their club, you can contact Jeff Krivohlavek at [jajakriv@gmail.com](mailto:jajakriv@gmail.com) with any questions. Please enroll at [4honline.com](http://4honline.com) and select all shooting sports projects.

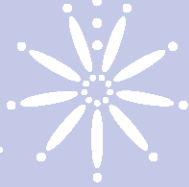
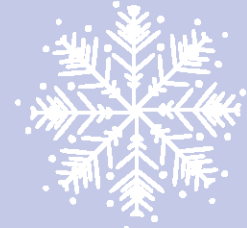


# January

## Pop-up Clover College

Tuesday, January 23

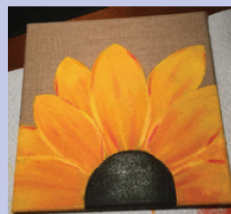
Join us for an hour of creativity this winter. At this month's clover college, use stencils to print a fun painting on a burlap canvas or go freestyle!



Age: 8+

Cost: \$10

4:00-5:00 Seward County Extension Office



Child Name:

Parent's Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

4-H Age:

(as of 1/1/2024)

**Registration  
Form and  
Payment Due:  
January 16th**

I give permission for my child's photo to be used for promotion. By signing below, I give my child permission to attend the Seward County 4-H Clover College.



PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO UNL. PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE, BUT CAN BE CREDITED TOWARDS ANOTHER CLOVER COLLEGE IN 2024.



PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:  
SEWARD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
322 S. 14TH  
SEWARD, NE 68434  
402-643-2981

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Clover Kid Livestock Information for 2024

Please review the rules concerning the Clover Kids livestock showmanship class.

- Clover Kid Showmanship Class pre-fair entry is required.
- Clover Kid must ID animal with own Animal ID sheet or include their name on the ID sheet of the animal owned by another 4-H/FFA exhibitor.
- Each member may bring one animal (or use another 4-H/FFA member's animal) in this division to the county fair.
- Animal must be ID'd in Seward County 4-H.
- The animal may be stalled during the fair or be brought the day of the show.
- If exhibiting their own animal, a stall will be needed and must be indicated on 4-H's entry form.
- The animal needs to be an animal the youth has cared for.
- An adult is required to be with the Clover Kid when working with or showing their animal.
- The Clover Kid will lead the animal in the show ring or be placed in a holding pen (according to the superintendent's discretion).
- The youth will discuss their knowledge of care and raising of the animal with the official.
- Age, size, and temperament of the animal project must be appropriate for the exhibitor's age and size.

Rules that must be followed include:

- The show will be non-competitive.
- There will be one adult/teen volunteer per Clover Kid assisting when the animal is being handled.
- The animal must be 6 months of age or younger the day of show.
- The animal must be less than 350 pounds the day of the show.



### 4-H MARKET BEEF WEIGH DAY

SATURDAY JANUARY 13, 2024

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

JON EBERSPACHER FARM

3527 HOLDREGE RD, SEWARD

I.D. SHEETS AND TAGS WILL BE AVAILABLE

EID TAGS ARE \$3.00 EACH

PAYMENT TO SEWARD 4-H COUNCIL

Must attend weigh day to be eligible for  
Rate of Gain contest at fair.



RSVP at  
402-643-2981

SATURDAY  
13TH JANUARY  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

CINDY WOLVERTON  
402-641-4490  
cwolverton3@unl.edu

## Horsemanship Study Group

Would you like to learn more about horses?

- Meet once or twice a month
- Prepare for 4-H Horsemanship Level Written Exams, Reports and Demonstrations.
- Fun activities and lessons

First Meeting Tuesday January 9  
Seward County Extension Office 7:00 p.m.

RSVP 402-643-2981



Contact Cindy Wolverton with any questions.

\$20/4-H'er, Payment to UNL

402-643-2981  
cwolverton3@unl.edu







4-H members ages 8-18 as of Jan.1, 2024 who exhibit beef, goats, sheep, swine, rabbits and poultry MUST complete YQCA training (each year) to exhibit at the county fair and state fair. Clover kids ages 5-7 do not need to complete YQCA training.

### SEWARD COUNTY INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING

January 3 10:00 a.m.

April 4 7:00 p.m.

June 6 10:00 a.m. / 7:00 p.m.

All Instructor Led Trainings will be held at the Seward County Extension Office

#### How to complete your Instructor - Led training registration:

1. 4-H members need to be enrolled in 4-H for 2024 before you can register for YQCA.
  - a. Use this link to enroll in Seward County 4-H: <https://v2.4honline.com/> (type this link into your browser).
2. Create a YQCA account if you do not have one. Remember your password! See Attached PDF
3. Once you have created a YQCA account, register for the training and pay online (\$3/youth) at: <https://yqcaprogram.org>.
  - a. See attached PDF for how to register for a Instructor Led Training
  - b. First choose your age group
  - c. Choose 'Instructor Led' training for the date you want to attend.
  - d. Choose Seward County
  - e. Follow the screen prompts for payment information.

Instructor Led Training Cost  
\$6.00/youth  
\$3.00/youth at online registration + \$3.00/youth  
collected at the time of the training.

#### How to complete your Web-Based training registration:

1. 4-H members need to be enrolled in 4-H for 2024 before you can register for YQCA.
  - a. Use this link to enroll in Seward County 4-H: <https://v2.4honline.com/> (type this link into your browser).
2. Create a YQCA account if you do not have one. Remember your password! See Attached PDF
3. Once you have created a YQCA account, register for the training and pay online (\$12/youth) at: <https://yqcaprogram.org>.
  - a. See attached PDF for how to register for a Web-Based Training
  - b. First choose your age group
  - c. Choose Web-Based training.
  - d. Follow the screen prompts for payment information.
  - e. Complete the course online.

Web-Based Training Cost  
\$12.00/youth  
Payment online

YQCA completion deadline is June 15

YQCA certificate of completion must be printed and mailed or brought into the Extension Office, or a PDF file emailed to [cwolverton3@unl.edu](mailto:cwolverton3@unl.edu). No phone screenshots will be accepted.



**All livestock, rabbit, and poultry exhibitors: read entire contents to be sure you know how to complete your YQCA Certification.**

All livestock, rabbit, and poultry exhibitors must pass YQCA yearly to be eligible to exhibit at the Seward County Fair and NE State Fair shows. Youth may enroll in online classes or attend a trainer-led class. Please contact Cindy at the Extension Office if you have any questions.

YQCA login and Course Completion Instructions may be found here: [www.YQCAprogram.org](http://www.YQCAprogram.org)

1. Go to [www.yqcaprogram.org](http://www.yqcaprogram.org)
2. Log into your existing Account or:
3. Create a new YQCA account. You can now create a family account and pay for your family at one time.
4. Complete registration information for the owner of the account.
  - a. Remember your Username and Password**
5. Validate your account registration.
6. Once an account has been created then you can add more than one child. Select Add Child.
7. Complete the registration for your child. Select “submit” to move on or “Submit and Add Another Child” to add additional children.
8. Complete “Data sharing Consent” to verify their certification with the listed third parties.
9. View the child dashboard to edit child profiles, you can add and delete youth here.
10. For online and trainer led trainings **youth must complete a pre and post test** prior to gaining access to their YQCA Certificate of Completion.
11. Follow this link for help guides to enter trainings:  
[https://yqcaprogram.org/local/youth\\_parents.php](https://yqcaprogram.org/local/youth_parents.php)
12. YQCA help video for Web Based Training: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC5n5YWx1rl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC5n5YWx1rl)
13. YQCA help video for Trainer Led Training: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIO](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIO)

#### Printing your Certification

1. Log into your account.
2. **Be sure you have completed the pre and posttest.**
3. Access your certificate using the dropdown menu under “Course Certificates.” Select the “+” to see dropdown on completed courses.
4. Select the blue button to download certificate.
5. Print the certificate or save it to your device.
6. Make sure the Extension Office has a copy of your certificate of completion by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. Print and drop off a copy your Certificate of Completion to the Extension Office or
  - b. Email a PDF of the YQCA Certificate of Completion to [cwolverton3@unl.edu](mailto:cwolverton3@unl.edu).



4-H Newsletter  
322 S. 14th St.  
Seward, NE 68434



## Extension Staff

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**Lori Hamling**, Support Staff & 4-H Afterschool Coordinator

lori.hamling@unl.edu

**Julie Roebke**, Support Staff

jroebke2@unl.edu

### Important 4-H Club Information

**Volunteer Enrollment:** All 4-H volunteers need to re-enroll in 4honline every year. Please make sure that your club organizational leaders, as well as anyone who helps in any way with your club, is enrolled. Go to <https://ne.4honline.com/>

**Leadership Changes?** Let us know if your club will be changing organizational leaders as soon as possible, so we can update our address lists. Thank you to all of the 4-H club leaders who do the important work of positive youth development.

**Resources for Club Leaders:** Looking for ideas? Check out Nebraska 4-H's Resources for Club Leaders for leader, officer, meeting, and teaching resources. <https://4h.unl.edu/resources/club-leaders>