



Webster County 4-H News



621 North Cedar, Red Cloud, NE 68970-2326 (402) 746-3417 <http://www.webster.unl.edu>



.....**STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH**
Duane A. Lienemann, UNL Extension Educator – Webster County

January 2015 Edition

The holidays are complete and we are starting a new year. So let me begin with wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous 2015! It also seems to me that State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben just got over, and here we are preparing for the 2015 Webster County Fair! That of course means that we will need to start talking about fair and preparation for fair. But that is not all... There are a lot of other things that are of importance to our 4-H and FFA youth and their families. Please read on and accept my personal wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

ALL LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS PLEASE NOTE!!

FAIR DATES: Unfortunately as we write this newsletter we are not confirmed on the carnival for the 2015 Webster County Fair. We are hoping to lock in to the carnival this month, **but put July 18-25 on your calendar as those are the planned dates.** We will just have to wait and see what we end up with for a carnival. I know Syliva and the fairboard members are working on it and should have word shortly.

YOUTH LIVESTOCK QUALITY ASSURANCE: I think everyone knows by now about the Youth Livestock Quality Assurance program that we need to complete each year. If you exhibit beef, dairy, sheep, goats, rabbits, or poultry you must have an YLQA card to show at county and state fair. You may remember from last year that the way we have done YLQA has changed. We now live in an “online” world and by offering this course “online” we are striving to make Quality Assurance something youth can learn about anywhere, anytime, any pace, and any place. You can find a document on our website at www.webster.unl.edu on how to “Moodle YLQA!” The on-line course has been divided into three levels, Junior (4-H Youth Ages 8-10), Intermediate (4-H Youth Ages 11-14), and Senior (4-H Youth Ages 15-18). Each year youth will be required to complete 3 modules within their age level. Youth are eligible to work ahead so that they will be done with the YLQA requirements until they reach the next age level. You can find the online YLQA @ <http://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=527>. We will have more on this in February 4-H Newsletter.

We encourage all of the exhibitors that are in FFA to work with their FFA advisors in getting their training done during the school year. If they take animal science classes in their curriculum, that will suffice for qualifying for credit. Please work with your advisors on making arrangements for completing the requirements for Youth Livestock Quality Assurance and then let our office know of your completions.

All 4-H exhibitors should also consider working on these modules at school or working with your FFA advisors. You can also do this from home or if you wish come visit us at the Webster County UNL Extension Office and get on line during regular Courthouse hours. There is a huge change this year in that the **Nebraska 4-H has decided to charge each exhibitor who does it on line \$5.** So be prepared for that if you go that route. We will also have at least one YLQA session that I will teach for those that would rather go face-to-face! Those classes will be determined at a later date as to when and where. Stayed tuned for more information on the Youth Livestock Quality Assurance.



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.

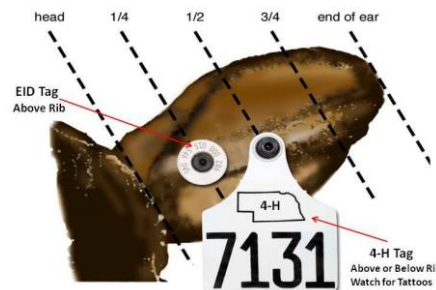
The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the non-discrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



MARKET BEEF EXHIBITORS

Webster County 4-H & FFA Market Beef Weigh-in January 25: We have already conducted the “early weigh-in” for market beef back on December 14, but still have one remaining. Exhibitors wanting to show market steers or market heifers at the Webster County Fair, Nebraska State Fair, and/or Ak-Sar-Ben must identify and weigh in their projects. The beef will be weighed at **Blue Hill Livestock Sale Barn on Sunday, January 25 from 1:00 -5:00 pm**. Our extension office asks that all exhibitors have your animals identified and put on the affidavit by that date if at all possible.

Electronic Identification: EID’s for all beef will be done at the weigh-in. This will be a second tag in addition to the 4-H/FFA tag. EID is mandatory this year for all Webster County market beef! We further request that if you would rather put your tags in before weigh-in, that you reserve the **one-third of the left ear closest to the head** for the EID tag. 4-H tags and market beef affidavits are available from the Extension Office in Red Cloud. FFA tags and affidavits are available from agriculture education instructors including: Melissa Bonifas, at Blue Hill high school; Joe Strickland, at Red Cloud high school; and Seth Going at Superior. For those that cannot get the tags or affidavits prior to weigh-in, they will be available at the weigh-in sites.



What information do I need to bring to weigh-in? Each exhibitor will need to tell officials at weigh-in if the animal is for the “**PB Breed Steer**” competition, and also if it is “**Bred & Fed**” or “**Bought & Fed**”. There will be clarification on the “Bred & Fed” in this year’s fair-book. Basically that title will mean that – “*You or your family owned the cow or heifer, which is the mother of the steer, at the time of the calf’s conception, and that it was born and fed on your farm or place of project care*”. Officials will also need to know the **place and date of birth** of the market beef (Premise ID is ideal). It works best when exhibitors have that information ready for the sheet at weigh-in.

Don’t forget –the County Fair dates influence your decisions for size of calf and how you feed them. Exhibitors will need to figure what their calves will weigh at the target date for the Webster County fair that is slated for July 23, as many calves are weighed in too heavy to finish properly. In planning for market beef enterprise, exhibitors should try to match the size of the calf that they pick out to match their intent.

What Should Your Market Steer Weigh? In planning for market beef enterprise, exhibitors should try to match the size of the calf that they pick out to match their intent. If it is the intent to “dead-end” the calf at the county fair then exhibitors should figure from January 25 to July 22 for time on feed, which computes to 178 days. Figuring that you want to gain at least 2.5 lbs a day (2.2 is required) then assuming a county fair weight of 1300 lbs, then the biggest calf that you should weigh in on the January 26 weigh-in would be 850 pounds. If you figure 3 lb. per day ROG, then a 775 lb steer would be your limit weight.



If you plan to hit State Fair with the 1300 pound calf then you have 215 days to feed and at 2.5 #/day then your calf should not weigh much more than 750 on January 25. Incidentally Ak-Sar-ben is 244 days from weigh-in and with the same goal weight you could use a 700 lb. calf. The exhibitor should keep in mind his/her goal weight (most common is 1250-1350 pounds), expected average rate of gain, and the environment (both cold and hot) and the growth potential of their calf in making their decision, and then to keep a 2.2 average daily ROG for steers and 2.0 for heifers. I don’t suggest just picking out the biggest calf in the pen. Feel free to bring several and then decide later.

IMPORTANT STUFF ON BEEF WEIGH-IN: We also want to remind our market beef exhibitors that all 4-H and FFA tags must be put in **before or at** weigh-in to be valid. Make sure that you get your tags from your FFA advisor in advance of the weigh-in or that they are in attendance at weigh-in to put them in. Our office will have the 4-H tags and will try to get some FFA tags to have on hand. NOTE: Please remember that the livestock ID/affidavit sheets need to be filled out and signed prior to or at weigh-in and are not to be taken home. Please download your affidavit from our Webster County UNL Extension website which can be found at: <http://www.webster.unl.edu/county4h> or if you prefer pick one up from your leader or FFA advisor or our office. We will also have some on hand at the weigh-in, but having them done before hand really speeds up the weigh-in process. We will also once again be putting Electronic Identification or EID’s in the ears of all market beef. If your family has their own EID, that is acceptable.

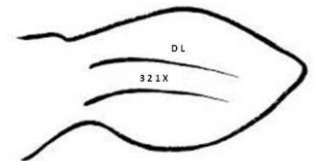
PLEASE NOTE: Major change in beef weigh-in rules: The Webster County Youth Council voted in a major change for the rules of beef weigh-in and identification for beef to be exhibited at the Webster County Fair. It now reads: *“All market beef must be tagged with 4-H or FFA tags and EID’s (RFID Electronic Identification) placed by, or in the presence of, the Webster County UNL Extension Educator and/or area FFA Advisor. If the animal is to be weighed in at a different location than those set by the Webster County Extension Office, then the Extension Educator from that county must obtain the EID and 4-H tag from Webster County Extension office; or in the case of FFA exhibits, from the local FFA Advisor, and then must place or verify both tags in the beef’s ear(s) at the time of weighing. The official’s signature must be that of a UNL Extension staff person or FFA Advisor, not a third party. The completed and signed affidavit sheet must then be returned to the Webster County Extension office within 7 days of weigh-in; and if mailed, must arrive from that respective UNL Extension or FFA Office. The animal will then be physically verified by the Webster County Extension Educator or FFA Advisor as to the correct tags matching the affidavit.”*

What do I need if I am going on to Nebraska State Fair and/or Ak-Sar-Ben? 4-H exhibitors are reminded that if they intend on going on to State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben, they must have their beef DNA sampled. There is a \$6 per head charge for DNA samples. This will also be done at the weigh-in site for those that so desire. FFA requirements are somewhat different, for instance beef going on to State Fair must either have a Nose Print or EID tag plus their FFA tag. When in doubt, or not sure of their intentions, we suggest that exhibitors make sure their beef are EID’ed, and take a DNA sample (4-H) on your market beef to be on the safe side. Exhibitors do have until March 26 to DNA any beef animal that may go to State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.

BVD-PI Test: As many of you already know, the **BVD-PI test for beef will be required for the 2014 Nebraska State Fair**. You can test at any time up through a couple of weeks prior to the Nebraska State Fair. You just must have the results to take with you to the State Fair and the animal of course must test negative. The Health requirements for BVD at the state fair clearly state that all animals are required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). These must be issued by an accredited veterinarian. **Veterinarians or their technicians must take the samples**. We are recommending that BVD samples be sent to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Veterinary Diagnostic Center (VDC) for analysis. The VDC will be offering the test for Nebraska State Fair exhibitors at a discounted rate of \$3.50 per sample with accession fee’s being waived. In order to receive the discounted rate, all samples must be clearly labeled with “State Fair Testing.” If you have questions on how to properly collect a BVD sample, call the VDC at (402) 472-1434.

BREEDING HEIFERS

Breeding Heifer Tattoos: Regardless if you go to the Cattlemen’s Classic or not, in preparation for county fair, state fair and Ak-Sar-Ben please note that **ALL breeding heifers** need to have tattoos in their ears. Only purebred or registered heifers required this before. **Now, all commercial breeding heifers also need to sport a tattoo**. This can be a herd number or a number that corresponds with the 4-H tag - it is up to you, but it must be tattooed. If you buy a heifer from a breeder make sure it has a tattoo – even if they say there is one there. If you raise your own it always good thing to tattoo, it is a good management and identification tool. The main thing if you plan to exhibit your breeding heifer at any progress show, county fair and/or Nebraska State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben be sure you have a legible tattoo that matches the registration paper and/or the breeding beef affidavit.



HORSE EXHIBITORS:

Changes in State Horse Contests: The Horse Advisory Committee last year put forth a vote to lower the State age requirements for all 4-h State Horse Contest including Districts, Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show and Stampede. The changes in age requirements will be in effect for January 1, 2015. Here is how it is worded: *“All District and State Horse Show participants must be 10 years of age and be under 19 years of age by January 1st of the current calendar year. Where age groups are offered, a junior is 10 years of age and no older than 14 years of age by January 1 of the competition year. A senior is 15 years of age by January 1 of the calendar year and not have reached the age of 19 years on or before January 1 of the calendar year of competition. All advancement level requirements will remain the same for District and State contests. The age requirements for “State Horse Contests” such as Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging, Demonstrations, Public Speaking, and Art will follow the same age groups. Senior team events are designed for youth 14 years and older. Ten to 13-year-olds may compete at the state contest; however, the team is then ineligible for selection as a Nebraska representative to the corresponding national event.”*

4-H Horse Stampede: The 2015 4-H Horse Stampede has been scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2015 and entries due to our office by Friday, February 13, 2015. So, mark your calendars!! For more information on the 4-H Horse Stampede please go to <http://animalscience.unl.edu/web/anisci/ANSCExtensionEquine4HHorseStampede> to find a schedule, entry forms and contest rules. The following events are scheduled for 4-Hers interested in Equine projects:



Public Speaking Contest -: (New Event this year) Public Speaking Contest topics must be related to Nebraska 4-H Strategic Plan topics (include information related to at least one of the 5 Significant Outcomes: 4-H Strategic Plan Outcomes - - 4-H Science, Agricultural Literacy, Career Development/College Readiness, Citizenship and Leadership, and Healthy Living.

Demonstration Contest

Art Contest

Horse Bowl Contest

2015 Horsin' Around: The 2015 Horsin' Around will be February 28 – March 1, 2015, in the RB Warren Arena at the UNL Animal Science Complex on East Campus in Lincoln, NE. Featured trainer will be Jeff Mellott of Andover, KS. The conference begins at 9 a.m. both days and is open to participants of all ages. Adult registration is \$30 for both days, or \$20 for one day. For youth 18 and under, the cost is \$20 for both days, or \$15 for one day. If the clinic doesn't sell out, registration will be available at the door for adults at \$40 for both days and \$25 for one day and for youth at \$30 for both days and \$20 for one day. No phone-in registrations are accepted. For more information or a registration form, call 402-472-6411, email kanderson1@unl.edu , visit the Horsin' Around website at <http://horse.unl.edu> or the UNL Horse Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/UNLhorse .

2015 District Horse Shows: The District Horse Show sites have been set. This year they will be held at the following locations: June 1: Morrill County Fairgrounds – Bridgeport, NE; June 11: Cherry County Fairgrounds – Valentine, NE; June 15: Kiplinger Arena at Red Willow County Fairgrounds – McCook, NE; June 16: Valley County Fairgrounds – Ord, NE; June 17: Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wayne, NE; and June 18: Seward County Fairgrounds, Seward, NE. For entry forms and more information go on the web to: <http://animalscience.unl.edu/anscdistrict4hhorseshowsinformation>

2015 State Horse Exposition: Good news for our exhibitors. The dates for the 2015 Fonner Park - State Horse Show this year are not right on top of our County Fair. The dates for this year are **July 13 - 16, 2015**. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event. www.horse.unl.edu

Horse Related Web Sites: There is a web site that just came on line last year. It is called My Horse University. I believe you will find this information interesting and that you will find this to be a very useful website. Check it out at: <http://www.myhorseuniversity.com> Another great web site was developed by specialists in Extension it follows:

HorseQuest: Horse enthusiasts now can find a wide range of information including nutrition and care, best horses for children, riding techniques and horse diseases at one online site. HorseQuest, found at www.extension.org/horses, is the first resource provided by eXtension (pronounced "e-extension"), a new service offered through land grant universities. It provides reliable information to Internet visitors through several features, including frequently asked questions that have science-based, peer-reviewed answers. Also, online lessons help users learn more about specialized areas of equine science. HorseQuest also features experts who work one-on-one with online users through one-hour chat sessions that feature three expert specialists. Check the HorseQuest site for upcoming chat dates and topics. Another feature is "Ask an Expert," through which users submit questions to horse experts and receive responses via e-mail.

2015 UNL Extension Horse Judging Clinics: For any of you that like judging animals but prefer equine, or perhaps want to expand your horizons I suggest you consider attending one of these clinics. They are designed for current or prospective 4-H Horse Show judges, coaches and or advanced horse judging team members. They are as follows:

February 3: Valley County Fairgrounds, Ord, NE

February 17: Buffalo County Fairgrounds, Kearney, NE

February 24: Douglas/Sarpy Extension Office,

Cattlemen's Classic: The 24th Annual Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic is fast approaching February 14-22, 2015. The event is held at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds in Kearney, Nebraska. *All youth beef entries must be pre-entered before February 10.* Check-in and weighing for junior exhibits will be from 8:00 am until noon on Saturday February 21. The show is in two rings and starts on Sunday, February 22 at 8:00 am. For more info call our office or visit <http://www.cattlemens.org/> I plan to be in attendance on Saturday and Sunday, so give me a shout if you see me wandering around. Specific youth rules, regulations and information can be found on the web at: http://www.cattlemens.org/junior_new.html. Breeding heifers can also be shown at the Classic. They too are due by February 10 along with registration papers.

Cattlemen's Classic Judging Contest: Each year there is a Judging Contest as a part of Cattlemen's Classic in Kearney. The contest is on Saturday, February 21 with registration starting at 7:30 am. Here is a chance to compete on the regional level with youth from all across Nebraska and several other states. This is one of the best beef judging contests you can go to and is really good practice for PASE (State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest). There are awards and scholarships given to the top judges. You must be registered as an individual or as a team by **February 10**. You can find application forms, a flyer and a lot of info including last year's results at: www.cattlemens.org/classicjudgingcontest.html or contact Ronette Bush-Heinrich at www.necattlemen.com or call 308-627-6385.

Governor's Agricultural Excellence Award: The Governor's Agricultural Excellence Award Applications are due the first of March. The Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards, sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA), recognize 4-H clubs for the work of the individuals in the club and the community service work of the entire club. Recognition is in the form of \$500 checks issued to the club's treasury to be used as described in the award application form completed by the club. Each county may submit up to ten applications to their district office by the March deadline. I would be pleased if we had even one applicant. Applications are available online on the 4-H website at: <http://www.ne4hfoundation.org/agexcellenceaward.htm> Clubs must e-mail their application with Governor's Ag Excellence Award in the subject line to Sinda Dux at the 4-H Foundation office by **March 1, 2015**. E-mail address for applications: sdux2@unl.edu Clubs will be notified by **May 15, 2015**. The Governor's Agriculture Excellence Awards are usually presented by the Governor of Nebraska and NIFA officials during the evening picnic of the PASE/Life Challenge Event.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 4-H AND FFA MEMBERS

Each year our office receives information on several scholarships that are available to our county 4-H and FFA youth. Of course we can't list them all however we do have several of special interest to our office that we will highlight. Seniors and even some juniors in high school should be looking at scholarships to continue their education. There are of course a lot of local and county scholarships and in addition to these you will there are a lot of national scholarships. Don't forget to put together a good resume – it helps! It also helps to have a good cover letter to include with your application.

The National FFA Organization: Awards approximately \$2 million scholarships each year. Scholarships are awarded to FFA members and non-members seeking a wide variety of career goals and higher education. You can find the FFA Scholarship program at: <https://www.ffa.org/programs/> and click on scholarships. The 2015 Scholarship application will be available online until 5:00 p.m. EST February 15, 2015. (Required Signature Page must be mailed postmarked no later than February 22, 2015.) There are even scholarships available for non-FFA members. 4-H'ers should look at these.



Agricultural Scholarships: People that want to pursue a career in agriculture should know that there are many agriculture scholarships out there that can help them through college. If there is one occupation in this world that will never go out of fashion or demand, the most certain one is agriculture. As long as people live, they will eat. As long as they eat, there will be a demand for food grains and other agricultural products. Hence, agriculture is a fantastic career option. There are numerous agricultural companies, organizations and colleges that offer scholarships to students who have long term career goals in agriculture.

ScholarshipQuest: I suggest those individuals looking for scholarships either in their junior or senior years go to a web site called ScholarshipQuest! This free database contains over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. You can find it on the web at: <http://www.educationquest.org>

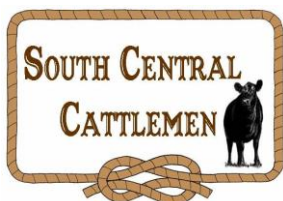
Careers in Agriculture Scholarship Program: Winfield Solutions, LLC is once again providing a “*Careers in Agriculture Scholarship Program Scholarship*” worth \$1,000 will be awarded to **10 high school seniors and 10 first or second-year college students** who demonstrate scholastic achievement, leadership in agriculture and a perceived ability to contribute to agriculture in the future. It is available to high school graduating seniors and first or second year college students pursuing 2 or 4-year degrees in agronomy, crop production, or closely related fields. To qualify for the program, a student must: Be a high school senior, graduating in spring of 2015, or be a college freshman or sophomore; Demonstrate leadership abilities and academic performance; Complete an application including two character references; and Write essays describing the importance of farmer cooperatives, and why he or she is interested in an agricultural career. For more info: http://www.winfield.com/news/36142_958601

College Scholarships for Webster County 4-H Members: There are several scholarships that are available to 4-H members in Webster County. Application forms are available at <http://www.webster.unl.edu> or at our office.

- **Jim Karr Monsanto Scholarship** - You may remember that Jim Karr won the \$2,500 Monsanto Fund's America's Farmers Grow Communities Program last winter, and has generously made that available to 4-H senior 4-H members that are enrolled in Webster County 4-H. There will be two \$250 scholarships available. Please contact our office for a scholarship form which is due March 1.
- **Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards** -- two scholarships to UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources or College of Education and Human Sciences. Note: Deadline is March 15.
- **Webster County 4-H Council Scholarship** -- applications and guidelines are being sent to the schools and are also available in our office and on our website. Deadline for the 4-H Scholarships is April 15.



Nebraska 4-H Foundation 2015 Scholarship Applications: Please go to the Nebraska State 4-H Web site for details and applications @ <http://ne4hfoundation.org/recognition/> Selection will be based on the following factors: influence of 4-H on individuals' selection of future career, 4-H background, leadership abilities, resourcefulness, interest and desire for further education, and scholastic achievements. Scholarship availability may change at any time without prior notice. Note: Horse scholarship deadlines may vary. See individual descriptions on the web site. These scholarships include: Loewenstein Scholarship (\$800-\$1,000); Donna Wampler Endowed Scholarship (\$200-\$500); Orschlen Industries Foundation Scholarship (\$1,000); Horse Scholarship - Grand Island Saddle Club (\$1,000); and R. B. Warren 4-H Horse Educational Scholarship (\$500). **Completed applications must be received by March 1, 2015** and are to be emailed to sdux2@unl.edu or mail them directly to: Nebraska 4-H Foundation, 6940 O St, Ste 210, Lincoln NE 68510.



South Central Cattlemen: SCCA will award \$3,000 worth of scholarships to 2015 graduating seniors. At minimum, there will be one \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships with the remaining \$1,000 to be divided at the discretion of the South Central Cattlemen's ten-member board. Scholarships will be awarded on the merit of the applicant not on financial need. Applicant must be a resident of Adams, Clay, Webster or Nuckolls Counties, attending school in one of those counties or be a child of a SCC member. The applicant should be planning on pursuing a degree in Agriculture in a 2 or 4 year college, preferable in Animal Science. Deadline to submit scholarship is February 20th. For more information, contact the Webster County Extension office or your school guidance counselor.

CASNR Scholarship: While we are talking about scholarships, our office has the ability to offer to any senior that scores a 26 on their ACT an immediate \$1,000 scholarship to CASNR at UNL. That has been expanded to include any 2 year school such as SCC or CCC to students who carry a 3.5 GPA. If you qualify under those guidelines, just come see me and we will get you a great scholarship.

Sorghum Producers Association Annual Scholarship – The Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers Association announces its annual \$400 scholarship to be awarded to a graduating high school senior or to a student currently enrolled in post-high school education. To qualify, the student must plan to pursue a course of study in preparation for a career in agriculture or an ag-related field. If the applicant is currently enrolled in college, his/her studies must be ag-oriented. The applicant's parents or guardian must be a member of the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers Association. **Deadline to apply is February 1, 2015.** Application forms are available at sorghum.board@nebraska.gov

America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders - Scholarship Opportunity - The Monsanto Company recently announced the launch of **America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders**, a \$1,500 college scholarship for students pursuing degrees in agriculture-related fields. <http://www.americasfarmers.com/recognition-programs/grow-ag-leaders-apply-for-a-scholarship/>. Please spread the word about this scholarship opportunity to eligible students by sharing this information with 4-H leaders in your area. The application period runs **November 15, 2014 - February 1, 2015**. The application is administered through the National FFA Scholarship program, but students do not need to be a member of FFA to apply. The application can be found at FFA.org/scholarships. Applicants will need to obtain the endorsement of three farmers. The endorsement period runs from **November 15, 2014 – February 8, 2015**. Farmers can endorse applications at FFA.org/scholarships or by calling **1-877-267-3332**.



Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards (NACEB) – The Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards Scholarship Program for the 2015/16 academic year includes the following: One \$1,000 scholarship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) or in the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS) for an incoming student (freshmen or transfer student). One \$500 scholarship for a current student (sophomore or higher) enrolled in CASNR or CEHS. **Applications are due March 14th**. Contact our office or check our website for a copy of the scholarship application.

OTHER ITEMS FOR THE GOOD OF WEBSTER COUNTY 4-H & FFA

Companion Animal Challenge: The Companion Animal Challenge is a new event to allow youth to compete in companion animal events without their animals. The 4-H Companion Animal Challenge will include the following events:

- Demonstrations
- Quiz Bowl
- Art
- Photography
- Skill-a-thon

The quiz bowl and skill-a-thon will be dog project specific, while the remaining contests (art, photography, demonstrations) will be open to youth enrolled in any companion animal area (dogs, cats, rabbits, small animal, household pets). Art and photography are open to youth of any age. The demonstration, quiz bowl, and skill-a-thon contests will be open to youth 10 years and older (similar to other state contests). Registration forms are found online at: <http://animalscience.unl.edu/ansc-4-h-companion-animal-challenge> and youth should pre-order t-shirts if desired as extras will not be ordered.

February is Nebraska 4-H Month: February has been declared as “Nebraska 4-H Month” and is held during the entire month of February. If your club wants it help celebrate Nebraska 4-H Month you can get information from our office or directly from the web.

Nebraska 4-H Club of the Month: Don't forget about the Nebraska 4-H Foundation's Club of the Month Contest that rewards the top club entry each month and award's them with \$50. I know that we have clubs that are very worthy of this award. You can find more information at: <http://www.ne4hfoundation.org/resources/4-h-club-of-the-month>

Upcoming Activities: I have attached a calendar of activities at the end of this newsletter that I have put together so far. Of course there will be a lot more as the Winter Programming begins. We will try to update this as things come in. That is about all that I have for this month. Now let's see what Carol has for you!



4-H Online Enrollment Announcement - Effective, October 1st, all 4-H families must enroll in clubs and projects through 4HOnline. We will be discontinuing the use of our previous online system, ACCESS 4-H. You will need to create a family account and profiles for each 4-H member to participate in the 2015 program year.

4HOnline is a web-based enrollment system that will allow families to enroll in 4-H on your personal computer, mobile device or at your local Extension Office. You'll be able to complete all of the information necessary to join 4-H online, including 4-H code of conduct forms and health forms. **There will be no paper forms to submit for enrollment.**

We will be sending out more information to everyone with specific instructions as soon as the program is ready to use. They are still working out some bugs but hope to have everything ready to go in a few weeks.

Omaha Fashion Week 4-H Collection - Nebraska 4-H is once again partnering with Omaha Fashion Week during their Spring Showcase. OFW Student Night will take place on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 and will exclusively feature high school designers, including a 4-H collection. This collection will consist of 10 garments from across the state and modeled by the 4-H member who made it. In order to create a complete and dynamic collection, interested 4-H members are invited to apply to participate in the show. The 4-H collection will be curated based upon the selection criteria as listed below.

Student Night Details:

When: Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Where: The Omar Bakery Building in Omaha

Hair and Make-up will be scheduled for all models starting at 2:00 p.m.

Runway rehearsal will take place at 5:30 p.m. The show starts at 8:00 p.m.

Ticket information will be available in January.

Selection Criteria:

Participants must be 4-H members.

Garments must have been exhibited at the Nebraska State Fair. Preference will be given to those who have participated in the Celebration of Youth Exhibition at the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery.

Garments should be fashion forward, runway appropriate and display high quality construction.

To Apply:

Complete the following application form: <http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/S1a38Uf43s8Ti0N8bep>

Applications are due January 15th.

PASE/LIFE CHALLENGE –will be held on June 28, 29 & 30, 2015. Each summer, over 500 4-H'ers convene at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus to test their skills in animal science and family and consumer sciences during PASE (Premier Animal Science Event) and Life Challenge.

Teens compete in a variety of different contests including: Livestock, Meats and Poultry Judging, Livestock Skill-a-thon, and Livestock Quiz Bowl. Life Challenge events include: Child Development, Foods and Nutrition, and Clothing and Textiles. While on campus, young people have the opportunity to take part in campus tours, and special sessions by UNL Admissions.

NE Ethanol Board - Field to Fuel video contest - Students across Nebraska are heading outdoors with video cameras in hand for a chance to win \$1,000 during Nebraska Ethanol Board's Field to Fuel video contest. The inaugural contest, which is open to high school students, focuses on informing the public about renewable biofuels. Students are challenged to research, film and edit a two-minute video for a chance to win \$1,000, \$600 or \$400. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three videos, which also will be featured at the Ethanol 2015: Emerging Issues Forum in Omaha during mid-April. The contest is open to students currently attending a Nebraska high school (grades 9-12 in a public, private or home school setting). Immediate family members of contest sponsors are not eligible to compete. Eligible videos must be received and/or postmarked no later than Jan. 31, 2015. For more information about the Field to Fuel video contest and a full list of rules, visit <http://ne-ethanol.org/?page=vid-contest>

Carol & Kelsey

2015 Special Garden Project

White Satin Carrot

**There is no cost to the Webster County 4-H youth who wish to order.
Orders are due to our office by Wednesday, February 4th!**



*Photo courtesy of Johnny's Select Seeds

- * *Grow unusual vegetable*
- * *Learn about growing carrots, soil care, and gardening*
- * *Enter carrots at County and State Fair*

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

The Special Gardening Project lets 4-H members try their hand at growing unusual vegetables and flowers. 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.

4-H'ers enrolled in the Special Garden Project will:

- * Receive a 'packet' of White Satin Carrots (one packet per youth) in early March
- * Receive a newsletter about:
 - Planting & growing carrots
 - Carrot problems & insects
 - Harvesting, storing & using carrots
 - Exhibiting carrots
- * Be able to enter this unique vegetable at County and State Fair

White Satin Carrot

2015 Special Garden Project

White Satin Carrot is a unique carrot that has many uses. The pure white roots hide underground beneath tall green tops. It will take on average 68 days from planting to harvest. This crop allows you to have two harvests in one year! The seeds can be directly planted outside early spring, April-May. A fall crop can be planted in June-August for a later harvest.

There are many ways you can exhibit White Satin Carrots at the fair. Just be creative!

Fresh White Satin Carrots can be entered in the 'Carrot' Class G-773-209.

Bring 5 roots following the guidelines in the publication "Selecting and Preparing Vegetables, Herbs and Fruits for Exhibit" 4H 226 (<http://4h.unl.edu/web/4hcurriculum/PreparingVegetablesHerbsandFruit>)

The desirable traits the judge is looking for are roots that are straight and uniform, with smooth skin. Avoid selecting carrots with green shoulders or those that are crooked, cracked, or with insect damage.

State Fair Special Garden Project Class G-775-001

Youth must be enrolled in the White Satin Carrot 2015 Special Garden Project to exhibit. The educational exhibit is based on what was learned from the project. Present information on a poster 14" X 22" or in a clear plastic report cover. The 4-H member's name, age, full address, and county must be on the back of the poster or report cover. Fresh cut flowers or harvested vegetables should be entered in the appropriate class.

Examples of projects that could fit in this class:

Picture/photograph - This class is up to you, as long as it includes the White Satin Carrot! Please include an 8" X 10" picture/photo mounted on 14" X 22" poster board with a caption.

Story - Tell a story about your first experience with White Satin Carrots: growing, harvesting, or eating the roots! Be sure to include a picture(s)/photograph(s).

Essay - Write an essay about what you've learned about White Satin Carrots and growing them. Be sure to include things you would change next time and a picture(s)/photographs.

Examples of County Only Projects:

Poem - Write a poem about some aspect of the White Satin Carrot: growing, picking, insect pests, the choice is yours! Exhibit in a clear plastic report cover.

Most Unique or Largest White Satin Carrot- Sometimes there are unique shaped carrots finds its way into the garden. Turn them into a fun exhibit and show off your odd shaped or largest root.

Choice - Your choice of a project, but be sure it includes something about White Satin Carrot.

Don't forget to complete the evaluation and return it with your project.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2015:

Jan. 11-25: 108th National Western Stock Show, Denver, Co. <http://nationalwestern.com/>
Jan. 14: South Central Cattlemen Annual Business Meeting, Steak or Bull Fry, Cowles Legion Hall, Cowles, hansburken@gmail.com
Jan: 16-19: National Youth Agri-Science Summit, 4-H Youth Conference Center, Washington DC www.nationalyouthsummit.org/
Jan. 19: Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 21: District FFA Leadership Contests, Nebraska Leadership Center, Aurora, NE
Jan. 23: Animal Science Experience Event, Animal Science Complex, East Campus UNL, Lincoln, NE <http://goo.gl/forms/RqpLn6drWf>
Jan. 23-25: NE Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference, Marina Inn Hotel/Conference Center, South Sioux City, NE
Jan. 25: Webster County 4-H & FFA Market Beef Weigh-in, 1:-5:00 pm, Blue Hill Sale Barn, Blue Hill, NE dlienemann2@unl.edu
Jan. 27: Cow/Calf College - Partners in Progress, 9:30 am-4:00 pm, USDA-MARC, Clay Center, NE dlienemann2@unl.edu
Jan. 27: Horseman's Update and In-Service, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, UNL East Campus Ani Sci Complex, Lincoln, NE kanderson1@unl.edu
Jan. 29: Hamilton Co. Ag Day, Aurora, twhitney3@unl.edu
Jan. 29: SC Cattlemen Beef Management Conference 10:00 am, Franklin County Fairgrounds, Franklin, NE rherrick2@unl.edu
Jan. 31: South Central Cattlemen, Bull Bonanza – Bulls on Main Street, Red Cloud, NE TBA
Feb. 2: Groundhog's Day
Feb. 3: Lemke Cattle Annual Production Sale, 1:00 pm, 1757 Road 2500, Lawrence, NE www.lemkecattle.com 402-756-7090
Feb. 4: "Ag: Trends, Topics & Tomorrow", Damian Mason, Fillmore Co Fairgrounds, Geneva - 6:00 p.m.
Feb. 7: Raising Nebraska Open House, 10:00 am-4:00 pm, Raising Nebraska Hall, Nebraska State Fairgrounds, Grand Island, NE
Feb. 14: St. Valentine's Day
Feb. 14: South Central Cattlemen & Cattlewomen Valentine's Day Banquet, City Auditorium, Hastings hansburken@gmail.com
Feb. 14-22: Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic, Buffalo County Fairgrounds, Kearney, NE <http://cattlemens.org/>
Feb. 16: President's Day
Feb. 20-22: NE Cattlemen's Classic Youth Show, Buffalo Co. Fairgrounds, Kearney, NE http://cattlemens.org/youth/junior_show.html
Feb. 25: TC Ranch Bull Sale, TC Ranch, Franklin, NE <http://www.tc ranch.com> / tranch@frontiernet.net
Feb. 26-27: Women in Ag, Kearney, NE <http://wia.unl.edu>
Feb. 28-Mar. 2: UNL Horsin Around 2015, Animal Sci complex, Warren Arena, East Campus UNL, Lincoln, NE <http://horse.unl.edu/>
Mar. 3: 42nd Annual S&S Hereford Genetic Tradition Production Sale, 1:00 pm, Schutte Ranch, Guide Rock, NE rnschutte@gtmc.net
Mar. 4-5: Governor's Ag Conference, Holiday Inn & Conv. Center, Kearney, NE www.nda.nebraska.gov Christin Kamm 402-471-6856
Mar. 7-8: Big Red Beef Show, NE State Fairgrounds, Fonner Park, Grand Island, Kolin Scheele 402-8062136 or kscheele11@gmail.com
Mar. 8: 4-M Angus Bull Sale, 4-M Angus Ranch, Brandon Meyer, Blue Hill, NE <http://4mangusfarm.com/> bkmeyer@gtmc.net
Mar. 8: Lienetics Royale Bull Sale, Trevor Lienemann, Beatrice, NE <http://lienetics.com/> tlienemann@diodecom.net
Mar. 8: Daylight Savings Time, Turn your clock ahead 1 hour
Mar. 9: NCTA Discovery Day, NCTA Campus, Curtis, NE <http://ncta.unl.edu/visit-ncta>
Mar. 14: 4-H Horse Stampede, UNL East Campus, Lincoln <http://animalscience.unl.edu/anscextensionequine4hhorsestampede>
Mar. 14: 4-H Companion Animal Challenge, UNL East Campus <http://animalscience.unl.edu/ansc-4-h-companion-animal-challenge>
Mar. 17: St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 20: Vernal Equinox, First Day of Spring
Mar. 21: Mid-NE Spring Beef Show, Buffalo Co. Fairgrounds, Kearney, Katie Frenzen 308-826-3131 kfrenzen@amherstbroncos.org
Mar. 25: West Central Extension District Spring Meeting
Apr. 3: Good Friday
Apr. 5: Easter
Apr. 8-10: Nebraska State FFA Convention, Pinnacle Bank Arena, Hay Market, Lincoln, NE
Apr. 25: West Central Regional Speech Contest at North Platte
May 10: Mother's Day
May 17: Custer County Challenge, Custer Co. Fairgrounds, Broken Bow, NE Bonnie Winters 308-870-3666 or stlbmr@aol.com
May 25: Memorial Day
June 5-6: 2015 Cattlemen's Ball, Redbird Ranch, Lynch, NE www.cattlemensball.com
June 5-7: Nebraska Junior Beef Exposition, Northeast Community College, Norfolk, NE Mike Roeber mikesr@northeast.edu
June 13: Nebraska Livestock Judging Classic, Buffalo Co. Fairgrounds, Kearney, NE 308-236-1235 brian.bosshamer@unl.edu
June 14: Flag Day
June 16-20: North American Junior Red Angus Show, NE State Fairgrounds, Fonner Park, Grand Island, NE
June 20-25: Shorthorn Junior National Show, NE State Fairgrounds, Fonner Park, Grand Island, NE
June 21: Father's Day
June 27: Roseland SummerFest, Rumbles Dance, Roseland, NE
June 27- July 3: Hereford Junior National Show, NE State Fairgrounds, Fonner Park, Grand Island, NE
July 4: Independence Day
July 18-25: Webster County Fair, Webster County Fairgrounds, Bladen, NE www.webstercountyfair.org
Aug. 28- Sept. 7: Nebraska State Fair, NE State Fairgrounds, Fonner Park, Grand Island, NE
Sept. 24-27: Aksarben Livestock Show, CenturyLink Convention Center, Omaha, NE