

Introducing Lamb & Goat Show Camp

The former Lamb & Goat Camp is now Lamb & Goat Show Camp! Attendees will learn to exhibit their lamb or goat in preparation for county fair. The camp is open to all 4-H members, including Clover Kids that have an older sibling attending the camp. All participants must be enrolled in the sheep or goat program and have their own sheep or goat to bring to camp. All participants will be provided a Lamb & Goat Show Camp T-shirt. More details to come about the camp. Please remit payment by cash or check payable to Buffalo County 4-H to the Extension office.

When: June 2nd & 3rd

Where: Buffalo County Fairgrounds

Cost: \$50

Register by May 16: at <https://go.unl.edu/sheepgoat2025>



Opportunity for Livestock Exhibitors to Grow

The Nebraska 4-H Livestock Achievement Program is an additional opportunity for enrolled livestock project youth to learn 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.

Applications/Sign up are due June 15th through the application form at https://4h.unl.edu/statewide-events-opportunities/livestock-program/livestock-achievement-program/?check_logged_in=1. Plan and Reports, as well as Project Records will be due August 1 via the completion form on the website.

CHANGES FOR 2025 BUFFALO COUNTY FAIR

PRE-FAIR CONTESTS

Premier Communications Event – 4-H members required to provide visual or audio files to Buffalo County Extension office 24 hours prior to contest through email, USB or another way it works for the youth and Extension staff.

LIVESTOCK

BEEF 8 total head

SHEEP 7 total head in addition to 1 Lottery

GOAT 5 total head in addition to 1 Lottery

SWINE 4 total head in addition to 1 Lottery



STATIC

SAFETY

E440001 First Aid Kit is now General Purpose First Aid Kit which is appropriate for use in the home

NEW CLASS

E440002 – Specific Purpose First Aid Kit

BUFFALO COUNTY FAIR
JULY 22 - 28

FOODS

See section for additional rules pertaining to Sourdough entries and items made using a Bread Machine.

PIES

Double Crust Pie Class moved from Cooking 401 to Pies (formerly known as Discovery Pies)

DECORATED CAKES

Newly added: Tested, recommended recipe for cake decorating; what non-food items are allowed in cake decorating

75 DAYS BEFORE JUNE 15 DEADLINE
112 DAYS UNTIL FAIR!



WISHING YOU & YOUR FAMILY A SAFE AND HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

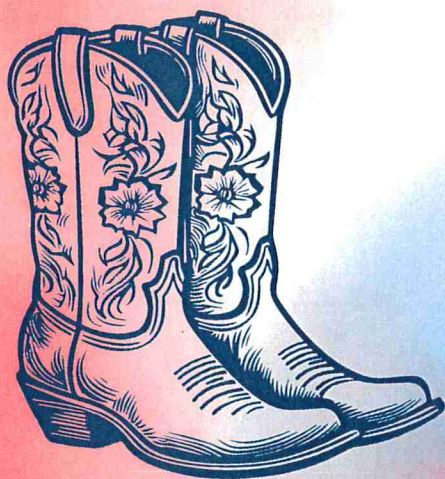
BUFFALO COUNTY 4-H

July 2025

Nebraska Extension-Buffalo County 1400 E. 34th St. Kearney, NE 68847 (308)-236-1235 buffalo.unl.edu

4-H Deadline ALERT!

**PRE-FAIR ONLINE ENTRIES
FOR STATIC & ANIMAL
EXHIBITS ARE DUE JULY 3.**



CALENDAR

July

2 Apple Pie & Homemade Ice Cream Workshop
3 Pre-fair ONLINE entries due
4 Extension office closed – Independence Day
6 Buffalo County 4-H Horse Invitational
12-16 State 4-H Horse Show
15 Deadline to sign up for Model Judging
17 Buffalo County Fair Modeling Day
22-28 Buffalo County Fair

August

18 State Fair project drop off
20 Foods/Horticulture drop off 7-8 a.m.
20 Exhibits traveling to State Fair
22 - Sept. 1 Neb. State Fair (4-H is 1st weekend, FFA is 2nd)
26 4-H Council meeting

It's Fair Season!

● We are excited to see our 4-hers and their exhibits!

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. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Clubs Help Needed in Livestock Arena

Clubs can help clean the bleachers in the livestock arena following shows in the evenings of Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (July 24-27). Call Extension to sign up!

4-H Information Booth

Sign up to work the 4-H Information Booth. You will be in charge of supervising the static exhibits in the Extension Exhibit Building and provide information to the public about 4-H. It is also fun to have time to check out all of the hard work of our 4-Hers! Two people are needed for each two-hour shift. This is an opportunity to help protect our exhibits and be an advocate for 4-H!

Volunteers needed at fair

4-H static exhibit judging would not be possible without the help of dedicated volunteers. Helping with static entry is a great way to gain insight on judge's expectations and discover project ideas for next year. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the Extension office or Jordan Wilbur (jordan.wilbur@unl.edu).

See below for how you can help:

Static Exhibit Entry

- **Tuesday, July 22 from 4-7 p.m.**
- 20 to 25 adults and youth (age 12 and up)
- Duties include checking in and organizing 4-H static exhibits

Static Exhibit Entry & Judging 7 a.m. to whenever

- **Food Entry - Wednesday, July 23 7-8 a.m.**
- **Horticulture Entry - Wed., July 23 7-9:30 a.m.**
- 40 to 50 adults and youth (age 12 and up) at different times throughout the day
- Duties include checking in and organizing static exhibits, preparing judge score sheets, display exhibits



Sign up to help with 4-H Food Stand & Lunch Line

4-H families, independent members and clubs are needed to work one or more shifts at the 4-H Food Stand in the Ag Pavilion during the Buffalo County Fair, July 24 through July 27. Three adults and three youth (age 10 and up) are needed for most shifts. Extra help is especially needed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday when the lunch line is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up for shifts individually or as a club. Anyone who works in the stand or line must have closed-toed shoes - **no flip flops are allowed**. Sign up by calling, stopping in the office or emailing jenny.kreikemeier@unl.edu.

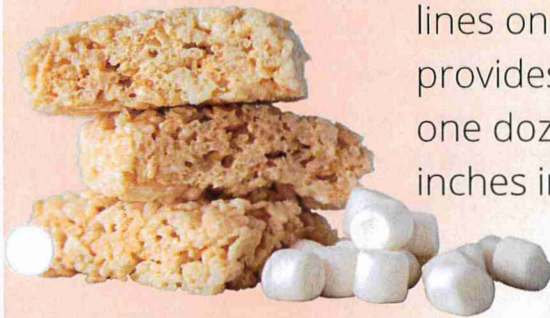
Brownies

Lunch Line dessert bars needed

Scotch-a-roos

Rice Krispie treats

Homemade dessert bars will be served as a part of the lunch lines on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We ask that each club provides 5 dozen dessert bars and independent members bring one dozen bars. All bars should be cut approximately 3X3 inches in size and individually wrapped.



*cereal
bars*

cookie bars

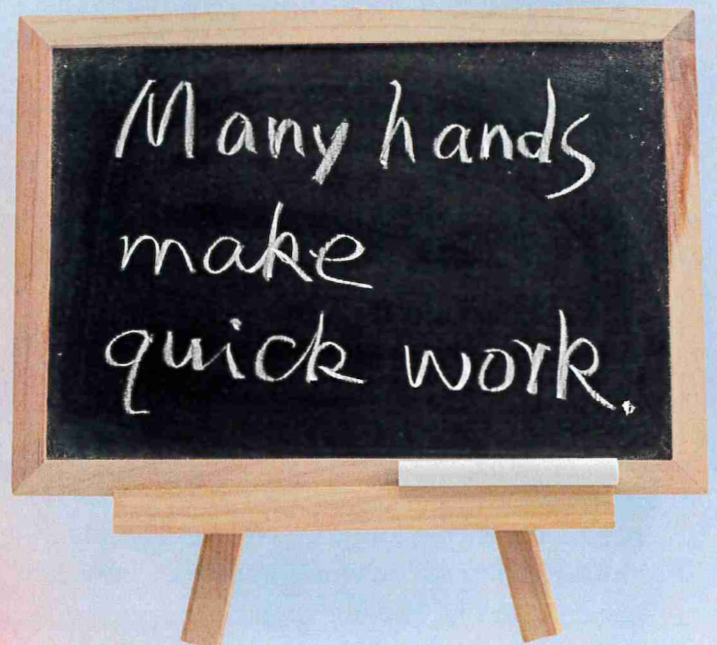
*Lucky Charms
bars*

Please bring your dessert bars to the 4-H Food Stand in the Ag Pavilion:

- Clubs or individuals working the food stand on Wednesday should bring their bars with them the day of their shift
- All other clubs and individuals can bring their bars on Thursday by 10 a.m.

Release exhibits and clean up

- Sunday, July 27 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- 10 to 15 adults and youth (age 12 and up)
- Duties include grouping exhibits by name and tearing down displays



Are you ready for Buffalo County Fair?

Deadline to complete online entries just days away

While your 4-H youth are busy creating masterpieces for the Buffalo County Fair, don't forget to complete your pre-fair entries by **Thursday, July 3**. All enrolled families were sent a link to the entry site via email on Wednesday, June 18. If your youth are enrolled in 4-H, and you have not received the link, please reach out to the Extension office at 308-236-1235.

Entering statics in the fair? Tips for a smooth entry day

All static exhibits must have an entry tag. Stop by the Extension office to pick up your static entry tags. To learn how to properly fill one out, check out this helpful sheet: <https://go.unl.edu/8qhy>.

All static entries must have an additional label secured to the back of each exhibit. You can get these at the Extension office or you can print a sheet of them at home: <https://go.unl.edu/j7hd>

Not sure which class your project fits? Our fair premium book is broken down into project areas so you can easily find what you need:

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/buffalo/4-h/buffalo-county-fair/>

Enter your projects in our online entry system by July 3.

Show up on static entry day - July 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - to check in your youth's hard work!



Interviews with a judge on Wednesday, July 23 last about 10 minutes. Schedule interviews between 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sign up for static interview judging

A chance to talk to the judge about your 4-H project may be an opportunity to gain more knowledge in your project area or a time to explain the trials or triumphs of your experience. 4-H families are welcome to call the Extension office to schedule their times. Each 4-Her is allowed to sign up for 3 time slots with a Static judge and in addition, may sign up for one interview with a Horticulture judge.

Guidelines To Help Interview Day Be a Win for All

- Interviewees should arrive 10 minutes before their interview.
- Interview judging gathering will be on the North Side of the Exhibit Hall
- Once arrived, please find the 4-H Staff by the sign "Interview Judging"
- Please wait until your name is called by 4-H staff or by a superintendent of your area to go interview judge.
- Once interviews are complete, please do not walk around the Exhibit Hall as the judges are trying to judge many projects. Family members should also stay by Interview Judging Sign.

Make the Livestock Auction a success

The Livestock Auction committee is asking each exhibitor to contribute to the success of the Premium-only auction during the Buffalo County Fair by inviting potential buyers to the auction.

Youth should reach out to potential buyers:



- Make a simple invitation to your buyer from last year or previous years
- Send an invitation to anyone your family does business with, such as your doctor or auto mechanic
- Drop off a plate of cookies to a local business asking them to consider attending the auction and explain to them how they can be involved with the auction without purchasing an animal

Attention exhibitors who win awards

Grand/Reserve Champions, Champion/Reserves, and Outstanding winners will be responsible for placing their order online by **August 8th**. Each winner will be receiving an envelope, with instructions, after they have won their class. There will be options to pick one award. Anyone who chooses a belt buckle must pay their portion online by **August 8th**. **If the winners don't select and place an order, they will receive a banner for their prize.**

Want deadline reminders?

Want to stay in contact & get updates during fair?

Follow the directions to get Remind Notifications. To join the general group, send a text that says @bc4hgen to 81010. If you joined last year you will not need to rejoin.

TO JOIN: Select the updates you want to receive and send the adjacent message to 81010

General updates text @bc4hgen
Goat updates text @goatshow3
Horse updates text @horseshow3
All Beef updates text @allbeef4h
Poultry updates text @poultrybc2

Rabbit updates text @rabbitbc3
Sheep updates text @sheepshow2
Small Animal updates text @smallanim3
Swine updates text @swineshow4



07 06 25

Buffalo County Invitational

PRIZES AND HIGH POINT BUCKLES!

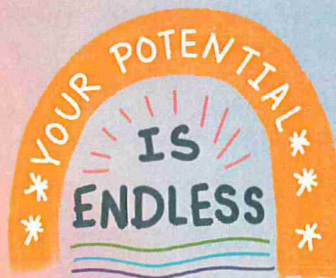
Buffalo County Fairgrounds Kearney, NE

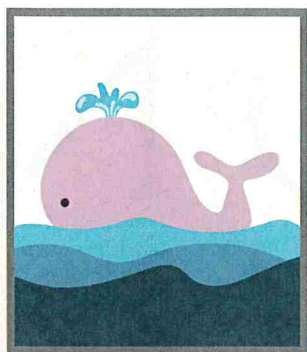
For Buffalo County 4-H Horse Invitational Showbill, visit

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/buffalo/4-h/whats-happening-4-h/>

Help a Fellow 4-Her By Becoming a Mentor

If you are an experienced 4-Her and would love to share your knowledge with someone new to the 4-H program, sign up to be a mentor. Or are you new to 4-H or feeling uncertain about your 4-H knowledge, being paired with an experienced 4-Her will make a difference in your experience. Whether you are the mentor or the mentee, visit <https://go.unl.edu/mentor2025>, scan the QR code or call the Buffalo County Extension office at 308-236-1235 to sign up for the Mentor/Mentee Program.

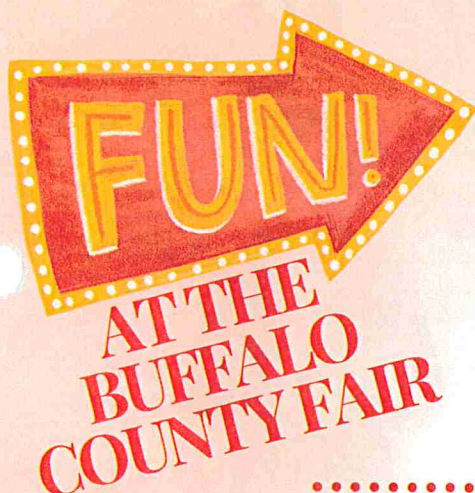




FREE Help Session July 15th

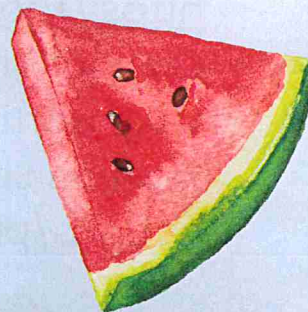
Learn how to matte

Need help with matting and framing your photography to exhibit at the Buffalo County Fair? We're here to help! Stop in anytime between 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15th and we will assist you. Please bring your photos along with the mattes and frames you would like to use.

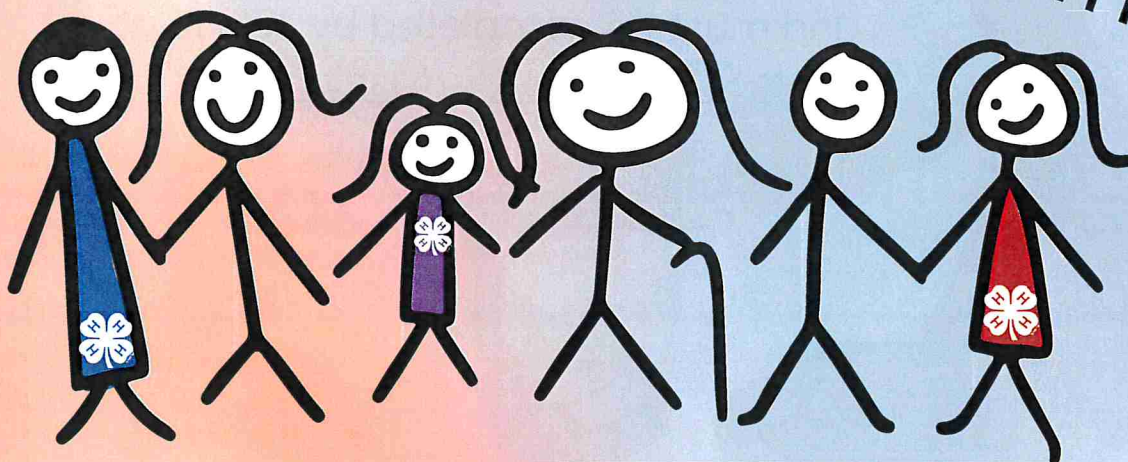


Cool down at the fair this year with a watermelon feed

The Custer Federal Bank is celebrating their 125th anniversary and is sponsoring a watermelon feed for all 4-H families on Friday, July 25th at 1:30 p.m. by the 4-H Food Stand.



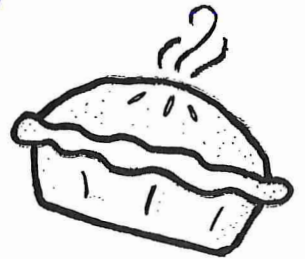
Head Heart Hands Health



MODELING DAY - JULY 17

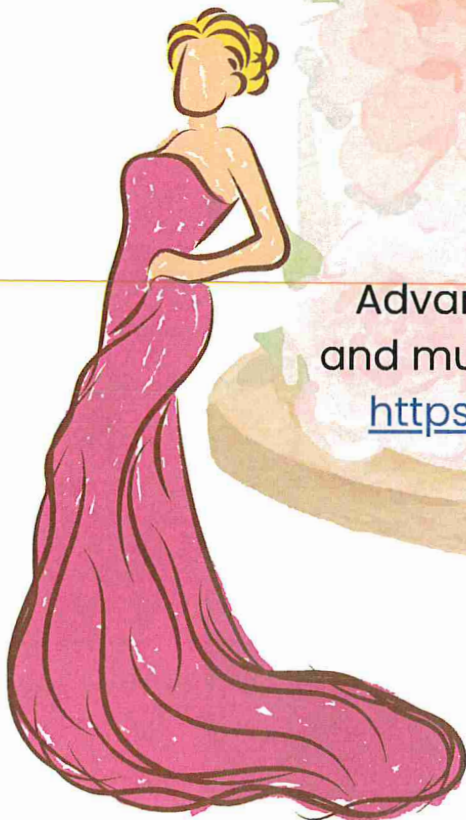
FASHION SHOW

THURSDAY, JULY 24



IN CONJUNCTION WITH
DECORATED CAKE & PIE AUCTION
AT THE BUFFALO COUNTY FAIR

- Enter up to 3 outfits – for classes, visit <https://go.unl.edu/7vjm>
- Clover Kids may enter 1 in Decorate Your Duds
- Must participate in Modeling Day on July 17 & Fashion Show on July 24 to receive fair ribbons/premium



Advanced registration is required
and must be completed by July 15 at

<https://go.unl.edu/fashionshow>

SCAN FOR
CLASSES



BUFFALO COUNTY 4-H



Happy Fall!

October 2025

Nebraska Extension-Buffalo County 1400 E. 34th St. Kearney, NE 68847 (308)-236-1235 buffalo.unl.edu

CALENDAR

October - National 4-H Week 5th - 11th

- 1 4-H Achievement Applications due
- 1 Club of Excellence Applications due
- 13 Extension office closed – Indigenous People Day
- 14 Bat Workshop - Homeschooled Youth
- 28 4-H Council meeting

November

- 9 4-H Year-End Celebration at The World Theatre
- 11 Extension office closed – Veteran's Day observed
- 11 Deadline to sign up for Flag Workshop
- 18 Flag Workshop - Homeschooled Youth
- 25 4-H Council meeting
- 27-28 Extension office closed – Thanksgiving

December

- 25 - Extension office closed – Christmas

Celebrate National 4-H Week

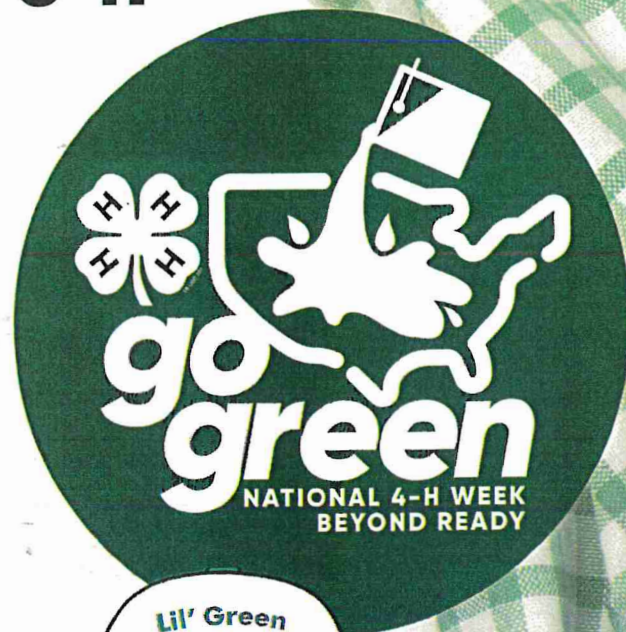
October 5-11

Go Green!

On Monday, October 6, GO GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint – anything green goes. Share your Go Green moment on Facebook at Buffalo County Nebraska 4-H and tag National 4-H (@4H), the Nebraska 4-H program (@Nebraska4H), and use #4HBeyondReady and #National4HWeek.

Beyond Ready: 4-H for Good

On Thursday, October 9, help us shine a light on all the good that 4-H does! A day to recognize all 4-H'ers who are doing good and making positive impact by helping their communities and beyond. Share your own story or celebrate someone who is making a difference – another 4-H'er, volunteer, or educator. Share on Facebook at Buffalo County Nebraska 4-H and tag National 4-H (@4H), the Nebraska 4-H program (@Nebraska4H), and use #4HBeyondReady and #National4HWeek.



Sell Fruit - Raise Funds for Fun Opportunities

In years past, 4-H members were given the opportunity to sell 4-H fruit, meat, cheese, and nuts to raise money for the Citizen Washington Focus Trip. The structure of this trip has changed on a National 4-H level. The trip will now take place as a part of the Ignite Conference and will take place March 24th-29th.

The fundraiser will start October 13 and run until November 7, with a delivery date of early December. The exact delivery date is yet to be determined.

Proceeds from fruit sales may be used for the Alaska BRAG trip, National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference and Ignite Conference.

Any 4-H member interested in fundraising should contact Jenny at the Buffalo County Extension Office, by calling 308-236-1235 or emailing jenny.kreikemeier@unl.edu.



4-H members would be responsible for:

- Selling the food items
- Collecting the money
- Picking up the items sold
- Delivering items to customers

4-H Council is looking for new members

Adult and youth members are needed

The Buffalo County 4-H Council is an essential group of adults and youth volunteers who meet, on the fourth Tuesday of most months in the evening, to evaluate and plan 4-H programs, events and fundraisers, set policies, and decide upon other 4-H management issues.

Any adults and youth who are interested in making 4-H a growing and thriving program may consider joining the council for a two-year term. Please contact the Buffalo County Extension office to express your interest in membership or suggest a nomination by October 15.

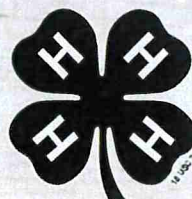
JOIN THE 4-H DISCOVERY CLUB!

- GREAT FOR YOUTH AGES 5-10 YEARS OLD
- ATTEND REGULAR MEETINGS & MEET NEW FRIENDS
- LEARN ALL ABOUT WHAT 4-H HAS TO OFFER

**MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE BUFFALO COUNTY
EXTENSION BUILDING AT 5:15 P.M.**

- OCTOBER 14
- OCTOBER 28

NEW TO 4-H AND DON'T
KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN?



FOR MORE ABOUT THE DISCOVERY CLUB, PLEASE CALL 308-236-1235.

Update Your Shooting Sports Certification or Become a Shooting Sports Leader

Shooting Sports Instructor Update - Ashland

A Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Update for shotgun and archery will be held October 11th at the Ashland Gun Club near Ashland. The update is for all adult or apprentice volunteer 4-H Shooting Sports instructors who have previously attended a 4-H instructor training in 2018 or 2019. You **MUST** be currently enrolled as a 4-H Shooting Sports volunteer in your county to attend. For more information, please visit <https://go.unl.edu/ashland-update>.

Shooting Sports Instructor Certification - Ashland

A Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Certification for shotgun and archery will be held October 11-12 at the Ashland Gun Club near Ashland. All attendees must have completed four online modules prior to attending the workshop at <https://go.unl.edu/t29f>. For more information, visit <https://go.unl.edu/4zyo>.



Youth Can Apply to Join BRAG

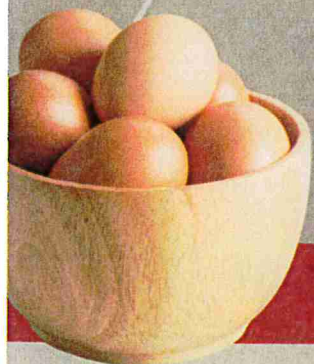
Must be at least 12 years old by January 1, 2026

BRAG – Big Red Ag Growers is an Ag Literacy Group that will train you how to talk about agriculture, and to become champions in Ag Advocacy. The twelve-month program will prepare you to be an outstanding advocate for agriculture. Youth will get to tour several different farms and Ag Businesses. Youth must be at least 12 years old by January 1st. Please visit <https://go.unl.edu/q78w> or scan the QR code to download the application. Applications are due by October 27th.

In BRAG, youth will:

- Learn about newest trends in agriculture
- Acquire skills to enhance leadership and team building
- Receive training to interact with news media





Backyard Poultry Production

Raise a healthy and productive flock

5:30 p.m. **Registration**

6:00 p.m. **Introductory Comments**

– Rick Rasby, University of Nebraska

6:05 p.m. **Nutrition Management**

of the Flock – Dr. Shelia Purdum,
University of Nebraska

6:30 p.m. **Understanding a Feed**

Tag – Jodi Holmes, Cargill Nutrition
– Minden

7:00 p.m. **Housing for the Backyard**

Flock – Brett Kreifels, University of
Nebraska Extension

7:30 p.m. **Break**

7:45 p.m. **Biosecurity – Strategies**

to Mitigate Diseases – Nebraska
Department of Agriculture

8:15 p.m. **Grading and Storing Eggs**

– Dr. Shelia Purdum, University
of Nebraska

8:45 p.m. **Adjourn**

When: 5:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.,
Tuesday, November 4

Where: Buffalo County Extension,
1400 E 34th Street, Kearney

Register: Please R.S.V.P. by October 31
by calling 308-236-1235

Cost: \$20 – includes pizza sponsored
by Cargill Animal Nutrition. Pay by
check/cash day of event

Breakout Session:

7:45 – 8:45 p.m. **Feeding and Caring
for My Poultry Project – Target 4-H
and FFA youth** – Brett Kreifels,
University Nebraska Extension and
Jodi Holmes, Cargill Nutrition, Minden





Join one of the unique volunteer training events to discover new opportunities for your members, network with others volunteers, and build your skills working with youth.

A \$15 registration fee covers a meal and all supplies. Virtual sessions have a registration fee of \$10.

Learn more and register at [GO.UNL.EDU/4HVRs](https://go.unl.edu/4HVRs)



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VIRTUAL - NOV. 9

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. CT

ARLINGTON - NOV. 11

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL - NOV. 13

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. CT

CENTRAL CITY - NOV. 17

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

SESSION TOPICS

Are you looking for ways to **build a strong relationship** with you through each stage of their 4-H experience? Learn ways to intentionally build relationships with youth.

Avoid 4-H Volunteer Burnout by learning how to implement some practical steps for your own 4-H club structure.

Searching for your next club project? Experience a hands-on **Human Development** project! This includes a lesson and fair exhibit idea(s) ready to take back to the 4-H experience you lead.

Discover how volunteers can ensure youth are **Beyond Ready** for life and work by experiencing a lesson you can take back to the 4-H experience you lead! Ready to provide your 4-H members with some career exploration activities - this is perfect for you!

The Contribution Project

The **ContributionProject** offers \$400 to young people (ages 14–25) to bring their ideas to life—whether it’s helping a friend, supporting a cause, or creating something meaningful in their community. At its core, this is more than just funding—it’s a study in purpose.



Who Can Apply

You’re eligible if:

- You’re **14–25 years old**
- You live in the **U.S. or a U.S. territory**
- You haven’t participated before



What Counts as a Contribution?

Big or small. If it matters to you, it qualifies. Your project must:

- Launch and take action **within 6 weeks**
 - Be something **you care about**
 - Be safe and follow the rules
(*no harm, weapons, drugs, politics, research, or spending outside the U.S.*)

How It Works

- 1 Get Started** — Create an account and complete a short research survey. You’ll receive a **\$10 Amazon gift card** just for completing this first step.
- 2 Share your idea** — Answer 4 simple questions in writing, video, or audio.
- 3 Get selected** — Applications are chosen at random.
Receive \$400 — Funds are sent by direct deposit or gift card.
- 4 Launch your project** — You’ll have 6 weeks to get started.
- 5**
- 6 Wrap it up**
 - Submit all receipts
 - **All applicants** — selected or not, invited to complete the final research survey to receive a \$20 Amazon gift card

Apply Now



Why research?

Because **your voice matters**. The surveys help us improve the program and show how youth are making an impact.

THE
Contribution
PROJECT


Beyond School Bells
nebraskachildren

contributionproject.org
@contributionproject
hello@contributionproject.org

SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to the Buffalo County 4-H *Year-End Celebration!*

Come and celebrate the accomplishments of our 4-H youth and volunteers with an award ceremony and movie night for the whole family. All 4-Hers and families are welcome.

When: 6 p.m. Sunday, November 9, 2025

Where: The World Theatre, Kearney

Schedule: 6 p.m. award ceremony,
with a movie to immediately follow

Admission: Free - enjoy free popcorn and pop



4-H Pledge



I PLEDGE MY HEAD
to clearer thinking
I PLEDGE MY HEART
to greater loyalty
I PLEDGE MY HANDS
to larger service
I PLEDGE MY HEALTH
to better living
FOR MY CLUB
MY COMMUNITY
MY COUNTRY
AND MY WORLD

Graduating Seniors Can Apply for Martha & Don Romeo Scholarship

The Nebraska Association of Fair Managers is offering a \$500 scholarship to one qualifying 4-H male and one qualifying 4-H female who are graduating in the state of Nebraska and who plan to continue with post high school education. The scholarship will be awarded at the annual NAFM convention in January.

Please visit <https://go.unl.edu/dj5w> to see the guidelines and to apply.

The application and two letters of recommendation must be submitted to the Buffalo County Extension by November 30.

December 15, 2025
Heidi Darby
Buffalo County Extension
For Immediate Release

Winter Wellness in the Outdoors

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you! We are officially down to the wire—Christmas is only days away. This is the time of year filled with family, laughter, gift-giving, warm gatherings, and (of course) delicious desserts. Even though it's cold outside and the sun sets far too early, the excitement of the season makes it easy to forget the chill.

But once the wrapping paper settles and the last of the cookies disappear, life slows down again. The sparkle of the holidays fades, and winter settles in. For many families, this is when the “winter blues” start to creep in, making the days feel longer and the energy a little lower.

The good news? Winter doesn't have to feel heavy or dull. With a little creativity—and some simple, doable routines—you can turn those short, cold days into opportunities for joy, connection, and calm. From tiny outdoor adventures to cozy indoor rituals, there are plenty of ways to help kids stay grounded and upbeat (and give the whole family something to smile about).

When it's freezing, our instinct is usually to stay indoors where it's warm. And while that's absolutely the right call on those windy, icy days, it's still important to carve out small moments of outdoor time whenever you can. It doesn't need to be long or elaborate. A slow walk around the block, a quick trip to the backyard, or even stepping outside to look for animal tracks in the snow can give kids that refreshing change of scenery they crave. Fresh air wakes up the brain, boosts mood, and helps reset restless energy.

You don't need a full workout to feel better—just movement. Little bursts throughout the day can work wonders. Try a kitchen dance party, a living room obstacle course, a kid-friendly yoga video, or a quick “race you to the mailbox and back!” before settling in for quiet time. Physical activity releases stress, softens tension, and brightens the atmosphere at home almost instantly.

Sunlight is one of winter's most natural mood boosters. Open the blinds as soon as you wake up, let that morning light fill the room, and try eating breakfast by the brightest window in the house. On days when the weather cooperates, bundle up and take a short walk—10 to 15 minutes is enough to make a real difference. Even just standing outside for a moment of fresh light can help reset the day for both kids and adults.

If your family is part of 4-H, these simple winter routines can grow into a meaningful outdoor and environmental project. Each walk outside becomes a chance to observe winter wildlife, notice seasonal changes, or track daylight patterns. Kids can keep a nature journal, identify animal tracks, or study how sunlight and fresh air impact their mood and energy. These small moments of exploration help young people build stronger observation skills, deepen their appreciation for the outdoors, and discover that even in the coldest months, nature is still full of wonder. It's a hands-on way to stay engaged, stay curious, and stay connected—true to the heart of what 4-H is all about.

If you have questions on 4-H enrollment or on any of the project ideas listed, please contact the Buffalo County Extension Office at (308)236-1235 or you can email me directly at hdarby2@unl.edu for more information.

Heidi Darby

4-H Extension Assistant

Nebraska Extension in Buffalo County

1400 East 34th St. Kearney, NE 68847 308-236-1235

October 20, 2025
Heidi Darby
Buffalo County Extension
For Immediate Release

It's "Pumpkin Everything" Time!

Welcome to my most favorite time of the year. Yes, the fall evenings are great, yes, the trees are pretty and yes, wearing sweatshirts is the best but it's also "pumpkin everything" time. From pumpkin patches to pumpkin snacks and pumpkin candles, those orange-colored squashes are everywhere, and I love that. I love to see pumpkins on porches. It really sets the tone for fall, harvest, and Halloween.

One of my favorite traditions in our home is our annual trip to the pumpkin patch. We have attended the same one year after year. We have gone almost every year since they first opened. There are so many ways to make the most out of your trip to the patch. Here are some tips from our family to yours. Plan for all types of weather. You might start out cool and need a jacket and by the end of the day, you will need sunscreen and a T-shirt. Seriously, it's best to plan for all weather conditions for yourself and your children.

Next, take a water bottle. Yes, we all need to hydrate but it also comes in handy for rinsing sand and sunscreen out of their eyes from the sand around the great big jumping pumpkin. You could take them to the restroom for a quick rinse but trust me, they won't go willingly. Really the best advice I can share is to plan to be there for the day. Take your time and just let your children or grandchildren run from activity to activity. Find a shade tree, eat your caramel apple and just let them enjoy the day. The best days at the patch are not hurried in any way. Go early and make the most of the beautiful fall weather.

Continuing with how great pumpkins are, let's focus on all the delicious treats that you can get with pumpkins this time of year. I'll admit, I love a good pumpkin spice latte. Actually, anything pumpkin

is pretty tasty in my opinion. Pumpkin bread, pumpkin pancakes, and of course pumpkin pie. All are wonderful at any time of the year, but don't they just taste better in the fall?

One of my favorite desserts is pumpkin pecan bread. This bread can be made with canned pumpkin, but you can also use sweet potatoes as an option. The secret is the maple syrup to keep it from drying out and toasting the pecans, so you really get that flavor. This of course would make a great Quick Bread or Muffin project for the County Fair. You can make muffins or small mini loaves. We tend to like the small loaves. They are the perfect size to go to the tractor or as a snack at the pumpkin patch. Here is my recipe in case you too are a pumpkin bread connoisseur:

Pumpkin Pecan Quick Bread

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. all-purpose flour

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. sugar

2 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. cinnamon

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt

$\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. nutmeg

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. pumpkin puree or mashed sweet potatoes

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. maple syrup

$\frac{1}{3}$ c. canola oil

2 eggs

1 tsp. vanilla

1 c. toasted chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 400 f. Spray mini loaf pans with non-stick cooking spray.

In medium bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg. In large bowl, with mixer at medium speed, beat pumpkin, syrup, oil, eggs, and vanilla until blended. Stir in flour mixture

until well blended. Stir in pecans. Spoon into prepared pans. Bake for about 20 minutes or until lightly browned and firm to the touch. Cool in pan on wire rack for 5 minutes. Remove from pan.

If making pumpkin desserts is something your children or grandchildren are interested in, we have many classes at the County Fair. 4-H members can make quick breads, muffins or even pumpkin seed granola. There are so many options. One fun class that involves the whole family is our Family Food Traditions class in Cooking 401. This class involves any recipe for baked items like cakes, muffins or cookies. Members need to include the recipe and who it came from and information on how it is part of your family traditions or heritage. What a great generational project for 4-H members to do with their grandparents.

4-H enrollment is now open. Let us help you find a club to join or if you are interested in starting your own, we can help with that too. Your local Extension Office has access to guides of all kinds for this fun project. If your child wants to learn more, reach out to us or any Extension Office. If you have questions on 4-H enrollment or on any of the project ideas listed, please contact the Buffalo County Extension Office at (308)236-1235 or you can email me directly at hdarby2@unl.edu for more information.

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Extension Educator—

Goal setting success

By Kerry Elsen, Buffalo County Extension Educator

It's that time of year, when we make New Year's Resolutions. If making New Year's Resolutions is something that seems scary or you don't do because you know you won't do them, let's reframe those resolutions and call them goals instead. I frequently find myself setting goals or making plans for things I want to accomplish. As I am becoming forgetful, I have found it works best if I wrote those things I would like to accomplish down.

Put your list in a prominent place where you will see it often and not have to search for it. Keep in mind you can always make changes to your list. Make the items you would like to do descriptive, making them too broad often leaves us feeling as though it isn't attainable. It can also make it easier to break the goal down into smaller steps. I am one who really likes to be able to check things off my list. Being able to move items off the list keeps me motivated and moving towards accomplishing the complete goal.

Remain positive as you work your way through the steps of completing your goal. We all run into challenges that make some of the steps more difficult to complete. Again, this can be a point when you want to re-evaluate and make any changes to your goals. Continually making changes to the action steps of your goal, also promotes working towards completion.

Find someone who can help you to be accountable for your progress. Family members or friends make great accountability partners. Checking in with each other every couple of weeks or once a month is

helpful. This encourages both of you to keep working towards taking this off your list.

Goals do not need to be complicated. They can be as simple as trying a new activity or spending more time with your friends, you can even volunteer your time to help others. Putting these items on paper and working with your accountability partner makes these items new habits instead of ideas that you wished you did more of.

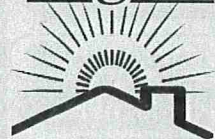
These goal setting tips work great for starting 4-H projects for this year as well. January is a great time to think about what areas you would like to be involved in. Challenge yourself to try something you haven't done before. Think about ways you can be more involved in your club and helping other 4-H members.

If you would like information on selecting 4-H projects or how to accomplish your goals for the year, reach out to the Buffalo County Extension Office, (308)236-1235.

Colorado, and Patrick Brown, of Los Angeles, California; nieces and nephews, Andrew Niemack, of Loveland, Colorado, Courtney (Ryan) Manning, of Loveland, Colorado, Keira and Carina Niemack, of Omaha, and Mallorie, Madden and MacKoy Wilcox, of St. Joseph, Missouri; and above all, her cherished grandchildren, Brecken and Wyatt Lundeen, of Omaha, and Oliver Brown, of Fort Collins, Colorado. Other family members include beloved cousins, colleagues and dear friends.

Cindy was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Carol.

Regency R



Index

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Festive Plants with a Side of Caution

The holiday season is here, and with it come festive decorations and blooming holiday plants. While these plants brighten our homes, some have a more dangerous side. Think you know which holiday favorites are safe—and which ones aren't?

Amaryllis

Amaryllis is stunning but often overlooked as one of the more toxic holiday plants. Sold as large bulbs, they grow into tall stalks topped with bold, trumpet-shaped flowers. The bulbs contain alkaloid lycorine, a gastrointestinal irritant, and are the most toxic part of the plant. Leaves and stems can also cause issues if eaten in large amounts.

Mistletoe

Kissing under the mistletoe may be a holiday tradition, but the plant itself is far from harmless. Real mistletoe, usually sold dried with its thick green leaves and white berries, is a parasitic plant. Ingesting even a few berries can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and other digestive problems. All parts of the plant are considered toxic—something to keep in mind before hanging it in your doorway.

Holly, Inkberry, and Yew

Plants with glossy green leaves and bright red berries are classic holiday décor, but many of them pack a toxic punch. Holly, inkberry (winterberry), and yew are all poisonous to pets and humans. Want the holly look without the risk? Try Oregon grape holly (Mahonia), it has similar foliage but produces harmless blue-purple berries.

Poinsettia

Poinsettias have long been rumored to be highly poisonous, but research shows otherwise. According to POISINDEX, a 50-pound child would need to consume more than 1.25 pounds of bracts—roughly 500–600 leaves—to reach harmful levels. Eating a few may cause mild stomach upset, and the sap can irritate sensitive skin, but poinsettias are not considered toxic.

Safer Holiday Options

If you prefer worry-free plants, consider Christmas cactus and kalanchoe, both listed as non-poisonous. Christmas cactus features flat, chain-like leaf pads with pink to red blooms, while kalanchoe offers clusters of bright flowers in many colors. Norfolk Island pine is another safe choice, bringing soft evergreen charm to indoor spaces, the worst risk is a gentle poke from its needles.

No matter what you display this season, it's best to enjoy holiday plants with your eyes—not your taste buds.

Elizabeth Exstrom is the Horticulture Extension Educator with Nebraska Extension in Hall County. For more information contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu, her blog at <http://huskerhort.com/>, or HuskerHort on Facebook and Twitter.



Weather or Not: Winter Tips for Trees and Shrubs

Winter in Nebraska can be summed up in one word: unpredictable. No matter what the season brings, take advantage of any decent weather to tackle a few quick tasks that will keep your trees and shrubs in top shape.

Watering During Open Winters

Winters without snow may spare you from shoveling, but they can leave your landscape thirsty. When conditions are dry and temperatures are warmer than average, winter watering can give trees and shrubs the boost they need. Just like in summer, winter drought stress requires supplemental moisture.

On days when temperatures rise above 40°F, water once a week. Apply it slowly so it soaks into the top 12 inches of soil without running off. Avoid creating ice around the trunk or crown as temperatures drop overnight. Skip “root feeders” or deep-watering devices during winter, they’re not recommended this time of year.

Snow and Ice: Handle With Care

Heavy snow and ice can cause limbs to crack, split, or break. If ice builds up, let it melt naturally. If it’s safe, you may gently remove loose snow by supporting the limb from below and brushing snow off.

Do not dig snow away from shrubs, snow acts as an insulator, and shoveling can lead to broken branches. And never strike branches covered in ice or heavy snow; they’re brittle and can snap easily. After major storms, expect that some pruning may be needed.

Pruning During Dormancy

If mild weather arrives, check whether corrective pruning is necessary. Deciduous trees should be pruned while they are dormant, making structural issues easier to spot.

Avoid pruning during the spring “sap flow” period (April–May) and from mid-August until leaf drop to reduce the risk of decay. Focus on removing dead, diseased, damaged, or rubbing branches. Leave pruning wounds uncovered—wound paints and sealers trap moisture and can encourage rot.

Protecting Evergreens

Some evergreens, such as arborvitae and Japanese yew, benefit from winter protection—especially near sidewalks or driveways treated with de-icing salts. Create a simple wind or salt screen using canvas, burlap, or plastic on the south or west sides. If using burlap, keep the top open for ventilation.

Anti-desiccants like Wilt-Pruf can also help protect evergreens exposed to harsh winter winds.

A Little Prep Goes a Long Way

Taking time now to protect and maintain your trees and shrubs can mean less damage—and less work—when spring finally arrives.

Elizabeth Exstrom is the Horticulture Extension Educator with Nebraska Extension in Hall County. For more information contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu, her blog at <http://huskerhort.com/>, or HuskerHort on Facebook and Twitter.



Celebrate Nebraska Wildflower Week: Nature's Colorful Gift to the Landscape

A week devoted to wildflowers is just about as meaningful as a holiday devoted to trees. While Arbor Day is widely recognized and celebrated across Nebraska, Nebraska Wildflower Week deserves just as much attention.

Held June 1–8, 2025, Nebraska Wildflower Week is coordinated by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) and brings together organizations and individuals who understand the true value of wildflowers and native plants. Events will take place throughout the state, inviting Nebraskans to appreciate the natural beauty that surrounds them. A full list of statewide events and educational resources is available at: <https://plantnebraska.org/resources-events/events/wildflowers.html>

Wildflowers and native plants can be stunning, resilient additions to any landscape. But what's the difference between the two? While the terms are often used interchangeably, they have distinct meanings.

Native plants are those that were present in the Great Plains region before the arrival of European settlers. **Wildflowers**, on the other hand, are flowering plants that grow with little or no human assistance. They may be native or introduced species, and both types are well-suited for low-maintenance landscapes and areas that require hardy, drought-tolerant plants.

As the NSA beautifully puts it:

"Wildflowers endure through hard times, lending beauty and brightness even to landscapes rarely seen by human eyes. Their flowers and seeds feed birds, butterflies and other wildlife; their roots loosen and improve soil; and they lend fragrance and beauty to wild places, making us want to take a closer look at places we might otherwise ignore."

Elizabeth's Top 5 Wildflower Picks

Here are five standout wildflowers that thrive in Nebraska's climate and conditions:

- **Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpureum*)**
A Nebraska favorite, this wildflower produces showy rose-purple blooms in June that make excellent cut flowers. Plants grow 1–3 feet tall and prefer full sun and well-drained soil. The cultivar 'Stephanie' was bred right here in Nebraska.
- **Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*)**
Ideal for wetter areas, this plant attracts butterflies with its red-violet blooms that appear from July to September. The straight species can reach up to 6 feet tall, while the compact cultivar 'Little Joe' tops out around 3–4 feet.
- **Evening Primrose (*Oenothera* species)**
These low-growing, bright yellow bloomers are great for the edge of flower beds or to soften walkways. Flowering from June through September, they're followed by unique, winged seed pods.
- **Mexican Hat (*Ratibida columnifera*)**
Also known as a coneflower, this short-lived perennial displays bright yellow and deep red petals. It prefers full sun and well-drained soils, adding vibrant color to dry landscapes.
- **Pussytoes (*Antennaria* species)**
Named for their soft, cat-toe-like flowers, these small white or pink blooms may not be flashy, but they're tough groundcovers. Perfect for hot, dry spots, they're a durable and charming addition to any garden.

These are just a few of my favorites—but there's a wide world of wildflowers waiting to be explored. For more information, check out the **Nebraska Extension publication**, "*Wildflowers for the Home Landscape*." Visit <http://extensionpubs.unl.edu/> and search for the keyword "**wildflowers**."

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or simply a nature lover, Wildflower Week is the perfect opportunity to reconnect with Nebraska's native beauty—one bloom at a time.

Elizabeth Exstrom is the Horticulture Extension Educator with Nebraska Extension in Hall County. For more information contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu, her blog at <http://huskerhort.com/>, or HuskerHort on Facebook and Twitter.



Container Gardening: A Simple Way to Add Life and Color

Containers filled with plants can brighten up dull corners, expand your planting space, and even serve as thoughtful living gifts. With just a few simple tips, you can select the perfect container and fill it with the season's best.

Choosing the Right Container

Before you consider what to plant, take a good look at the container itself. Containers come in various materials, each with pros and cons:

- **Plastic** is lightweight and affordable but can tip over easily in windy conditions.
- **Wood** is a natural choice—just be sure it hasn't been treated with creosote or CCA (chromated copper arsenate), which can be toxic to plants and people.
- **Clay pots** may be glazed or unglazed. If using an unglazed pot, soak it in water before planting to prevent it from drawing moisture away from the soil.

Whatever style or material you choose, make sure the container suits both your aesthetic preferences and the needs of your plants.

Drainage Is Essential

Drainage holes are non-negotiable. They allow excess water to escape, preventing root rot. A one-gallon container should have at least three or four ¼-inch holes in the bottom to ensure proper drainage.

Use the Right Potting Mix

Avoid heavy garden soil in containers—it doesn't drain well and can suffocate roots. Instead, use a commercial potting mix or make your own by combining equal parts sand, compost, and either perlite or vermiculite. This mix offers better drainage and aeration, both crucial for healthy plant growth.

Consider Container Size and Placement

Container size affects how often you'll need to water. Smaller containers dry out faster and need more frequent attention, especially in hot weather. Hanging baskets are particularly vulnerable to wind and rapid drying, so check them often and place them in a sheltered location if needed.

Choosing Plants

Plants are the stars of your container. Whether you're planting flowers, herbs, or vegetables, always start with healthy plants. This gives your container the best chance of staying full and vibrant all season long.

When selecting flowering plants, look for ones with plenty of buds rather than full blooms. Buds promise longer-lasting color. To keep flowers blooming, deadhead regularly—remove faded flowers to redirect energy into producing new ones. For some annuals, pinching back early blooms can encourage fuller root growth and a lusher plant.

Location Matters

Match your plants to their preferred light conditions. Shade-loving plants will scorch in full sun, while sun-loving varieties won't thrive in the shade. The right location helps ensure strong, continuous growth.

With a little planning and care, your container gardens can look stunning all season long.

Elizabeth Exstrom is the Horticulture Extension Educator with Nebraska Extension in Hall County. For more information contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu, her blog at <http://huskerhort.com/>, or HuskerHort on Facebook and Twitter.

Talon Mues

Early Season Irrigation

5/16/2025

Based on the U.S. Drought Monitor, all of central Nebraska is now in a level of severe drought or worse. With concerns of declining groundwater levels, the Little Blue NRD (Hastings, Davenport, Fairbury, etc.) announced that irrigation allocations, a limit on how much can be pumped, will now be placed on growers in those areas as of May 14th. This was determined by groundwater declining below a predetermined and locally approved level. For all irrigators, it will be critical to consider how to manage soil moisture for crop use at the beginning of this growing season. Be on the lookout for CropWatch articles like "Early Season Irrigation During Drought".

Irrigation during the months of May and June may be necessary during periods of severe drought. However, the soil moisture may still be wet from the previous year's crops. Through conversation, it seemed many growers were surprised with the amount of moisture present in the soil this spring when considering how limited precipitation has occurred since last year. Planting conditions for many were adequate, reaching some level of moisture at 2-3 inches down. With strong winds and warm weather, worked and planted ground may now be drying out at a faster rate and in need of irrigation. Consider scheduling irrigation with soil moisture monitoring to limit excess irrigation, nitrogen leaching, and increased energy costs.

In general, plants need less water during these early vegetative stages. Soil moisture left over from the previous growing season is usually adequate, especially in irrigated fields. If moisture was available at planting, there is most likely moisture available for early vegetative growth. Corn roots can grow nearly an inch each day to find more water when the soil is at field capacity. Research conducted in North Platte shows that reducing irrigation during the vegetative stages by 1 to 4 inches had little to no impact on yield when compared to a fully irrigated crop. Keep in mind the benefits of reducing irrigation like reduced nitrogen leaching.

A different study, conducted at the South-Central Ag Lab near Clay Center in 2024, found that with five different irrigation regiments using an average of 4.4, 5.7, 7.6, 8.2, and 8.8 total inches of irrigation, only the lowest irrigation level had a significantly lower yield (240 bu/ac). With these results, it was calculated that the lowest irrigation level treatment used 50% of the water (4.4 vs. 8.8) of the highest yielding treatment (254 bu/ac) but only had a 6% yield decrease (240 bu/ac). When using watermark sensors in this study, irrigation thresholds were not met until August due to a wet spring.

Over-irrigation is common in many fields at the beginning of the season. To improve irrigation efficiency, monitor soil moisture at multiple depths. Remember, sprinkler irrigated fields remain wet at surface level all summer, so it is critical to monitor levels at 12, 36, or even 48 inches as well. Moisture levels at the 16–24-inch depth can be very indicative of water needs. This region is rather stable and aids in representing the water uptake of the crop. When this depth starts to dry out, an irrigation event may be needed, but if it is increasing, water is still filtering down to this level and irrigation can cease for a couple of days. In ideal conditions, the crop uses

water from all levels with subsoil moisture being dry at the end of the season without limiting crop yield. This then allows for reduced deep percolation and increased storage of water during the offseason through snow and rain events.

Excess irrigation early in the season risks the loss of nitrogen through leaching. Nitrogen-uptake is limited during the initial vegetative stages for corn. Therefore, that nitrogen needs to stay put and be available during the peak nitrogen uptake periods. For each inch of water that is deep percolated, 5-10 lbs of nitrogen can be lost to leaching. In sandy soils, up to 30 lbs/ac can be leached with excess irrigation of just a single inch. This can be extremely costly and should be avoided. Nebraska Extension has a variety of great resources to aid in irrigation scheduling and management. Reach out to your local Water and Cropping Systems Educator for more information.

Volunteering

Volunteer hours can be completed through various activities that could include: planting and maintaining demonstration gardens, collecting data on research projects, helping with county and State Fair activities, speaking to community groups, leading garden tours, collecting plant samples, answering phone questions, teaching youth programs, or whatever sparks your interest and utilizes your talents.

Education

Educational topics will cover a wide range of horticultural issues. Topics that have been covered during previous educational sessions include: native plants for water conservation, an in-depth look at fertilizers, turfgrass and related insects, beneficial pollinating insects, vegetable garden pests, tree and shrub pruning, pesticide safety and non-chemical pest control techniques, and small fruits and tree fruit basics. The content of the topics is focused on the home gardener, but those employed in the green industry will also benefit from the program.

Nebraska Extension in Hall County
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EXTENSION

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Central Nebraska Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers

What is an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer?

Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are people who love plants, gardening, landscaping, and teaching others. To earn the title of Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, individuals enroll in the program and receive 40 hours of education from University of Nebraska—Lincoln faculty, then volunteer 40 hours of gardening and horticulture related work. There are fees for the program which cover the educational resources and expenses.

No qualifications or prior knowledge about horticulture is needed for the class. The only requirement is a desire to learn and share a love of gardening and a commitment to teach others about horticulture.

History of Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

The Nebraska Master Gardener Volunteer program is a horticulture related volunteer training program based in many counties throughout the state.

The program has been part of University of Nebraska- Lincoln Extension since 1976. Volunteers are trained by Nebraska Extension faculty and staff and contribute volunteer time working with their local Extension office to provide horticulture-related information to their community.

What Is Required of Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers?

Participants are required to complete 40 hours of education and 40 hours of volunteer service during the initial year of their involvement in the program, as well as pass a written exam which is embedded in the TopHat platform.

To retain the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer title, volunteers are required to annually attend 10 hours of continuing education classes and give back 20 hours of volunteer time to their local community and Extension Master Gardener projects

What's the Cost & What's Included?

New Extension Master Gardeners

The fee is **\$250*** for new Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers (EMGV). With that fee the EMGVs receive access to an online platform called TopHat, a short-sleeved T-shirt, and a name tag. The fee will also help fund handout materials, speaker travel expenses, room rental, and other costs associated with the program.

Returning Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

The fee is **\$25** for returning EMGVs. This fee covers speaker expenses, handout materials, and other costs associated with the program.

ProHort Green Industry Partners

The fee is **\$500** for Green Industry participants. With that fee the ProHort participants receive access to the TopHat platform and 40 hours of education.

***partial financial assistance is available for new EMGVs fees**



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. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Educational Options

TopHat

All new Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will receive access to an online platform called TopHat. Embedded in the platform are text, videos, quizzes, and much more that can be completed and reviewed at your own pace. Returning EMGVs can have access to this platform for a \$35 fee.

Zoom Classes

Zoom classes will be held Tuesday evenings February 3- March 10, 2026, 6:30-8:00 pm. Orientation is January 27, 2026.

In-Person Classes

Experts will teach on a wide range of topics related to the EMGV curriculum. Dates and times are March 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 2026 9:00 am-noon & 1:00-4:00 pm. Schedules will be posted online and are subject to change.

For More Information:

Please contact Elizabeth Exstrom at the Nebraska Extension Office in Hall County at 308-385-5088 or eeexstrom2@unl.edu for more information.

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made no less than a week before the start of classes with Elizabeth Exstrom.



Make Your Property Wildfire-Ready: Free Workshop on April 8th

Wildfires have dominated headlines not only in Nebraska but across the entire country, reminding us that no area is completely immune to the threat. While it might feel like such a disaster could never happen in your backyard, it's always better to be prepared. By creating a fire-smart landscape and following FIREWISE practices, you can significantly reduce the risk of damage to your property. Defensible spaces, fire-conscious planning, and thoughtful landscape management all play a crucial role in helping protect your home from wildfire.

Understanding Wildfire Behavior

Wildfires behave according to three key factors: fuels, weather, and topography. Of these, *fuel* is the only one humans can influence. Creating a defensible space establishes a buffer zone around your home or property and reduces the available fuel for fires, which in turn helps slow their spread.

Choosing Fire-Resistant Plants

Not all plants are created equal when it comes to fire risk. Certain plant traits can increase their flammability, including high oil or resin content, low moisture levels, and tall or open growth forms. On the other hand, plants with low oil content, high moisture levels, compact growth, and drought-tolerant characteristics tend to be more fire-resistant.

When planning your landscape, it's not just about avoiding flammable plants; it's about selecting the *right plant for the right place*. Consider how and where each plant is placed, and how it will be managed, rather than simply focusing on its flammability. Your goal should be to create an aesthetically pleasing landscape that is also fire-ready.

Maintaining a Fire-Smart Landscape

To keep your property safe year-round, it's crucial to regularly evaluate your landscape and remove any dead, dry plants, branches, or leaves before fire season starts. Make sure to clear any combustible debris from around decks and under eaves, and be mindful of equipment use in dry conditions, as sparks can be a hazard. Routine maintenance, including pruning and clearing overgrown plants, is key to reducing fuel and keeping your property fire-safe.

Join Us for a Wildfire Ready Workshop

To help you take proactive steps in preparing your property, Nebraska Extension in Buffalo County and the Nebraska Forest Service are hosting a *free Wildfire Ready Workshop* on April 8, 2025. The event will be held at the Buffalo County Extension office at 6:30 p.m., where experts will provide practical advice on making your property wildfire-ready.

In addition to experts from Nebraska Extension and the Forest Service, you'll hear from representatives of Buffalo County Emergency Management, Nebraska Game and Parks, the Central Platte Natural Resource District, and the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department. Topics will include the wildland-urban interface, the FIREWISE initiative, Fire Smart Landscaping, and local cost-share opportunities to help with fire-preparedness improvements.

RSVP Today!

To reserve your spot, please RSVP by April 4th by calling the Nebraska Extension office in Buffalo County at 308-236-1235. Don't wait for a wildfire to strike – take action now to protect your property and be ready for the unexpected. With a few simple changes, your landscape can become fire-smart and your property more prepared for any wildfire threat.

Elizabeth Exstrom is the Horticulture Extension Educator with Nebraska Extension in Hall County. For more information contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu, her blog at <http://huskerhort.com/>, or HuskerHort on Facebook and Twitter.

FIREWISE

Wildfire Ready Workshop for Property Owners



**In 2022, approximately
200,000 acres of
grasslands, cropland and
forests were burned,
marking it as the second-
worst year for wildfires in
Nebraska history.**

Topics will include:

- FIREWISE Communities Initiative
- Fire Smart Landscapes
- Be Fire Ready
- Cost share opportunities with local agencies

When: 6:30 p.m. April 8

Where: Buffalo County Extension

Register: Please R.S.V.P. by April 4 by calling Buffalo County Extension at 308-236-1235

Cost: Free

Education brought to you by Nebraska Extension, Nebraska Forest Service, Buffalo County Emergency Management, Nebraska Game and Parks, Central Platte Natural Resource District and Kearney Volunteer Fire Department.



N
EXTENSION

Compass Navigation & GEOCACHE Workshop



- *Learn to use a compass, then test your orienteering skills on a compass course*
- *Go on a Geocache Treasure Hunt*



When: Tuesday, June 24 - 9:30-11:30 a.m. OR 1-3 p.m.

Where: Buffalo County Extension

Cost: \$9 - Snack included

Register by June 17: Visit <https://go.unl.edu/k95g> or scan QR code

Fairy Gardens

Workshop for Homeschooled Youth

Explore the world of floriculture with a touch of whimsy! Learn all about fairy gardens and how to care for them. Choose an option that works for you:

WHEN: Wednesday, May 21

9:30-11:30 a.m.

1:00-3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Buffalo County Extension

WHO: Ages 5-17

REGISTER: Sign up by May 14 at

<https://marketplace.unl.edu/extension/homeschool-workshop-fairy-gardens.html>



COST OPTIONS: Both include Educational Lesson on Fairy Gardens and Caring for your Fairy Garden book to take home

Level One: \$22.00

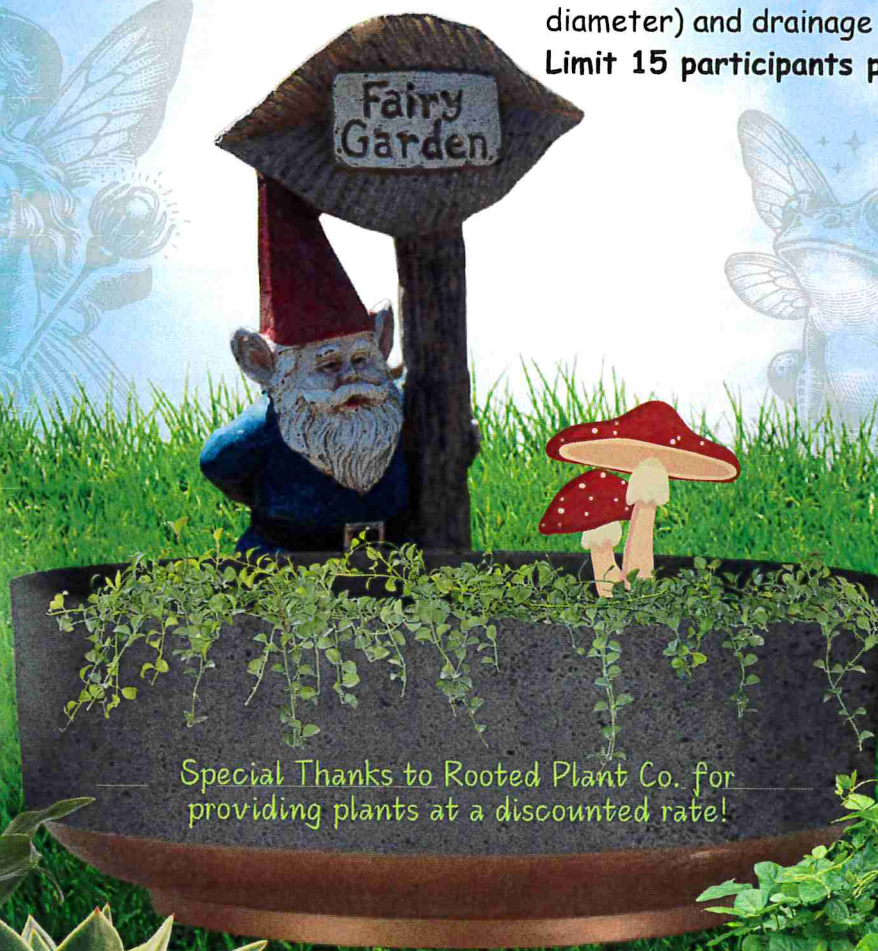
WE provide: 3 plants, planter with drainage tray and soil

Level Two: \$15.00

WE provide 3 plants and soil: YOU provide your own planter (10 in. max. diameter) and drainage tray

Limit 15 participants per session

Take home & personalize by adding your own figurines & decorations.



Special Thanks to Rooted Plant Co. for providing plants at a discounted rate!

N | 
EXTENSION

Apple Pie

HOMEMADE & ICE CREAM WORKSHOP

MAKE A CLASSIC AMERICAN DESSERT
TO CELEBRATE FOURTH OF JULY

- Learn to make a pie crust from scratch
- Make apple pie filling
- Make homemade ice cream



Workshop will provide great practice for fair



When: 1 to 4:30 p.m. July 2

Where: Buffalo County Extension

Who: 8 and up

Cost: \$12 - Snack provided

Register by June 27: Visit

<https://go.unl.edu/b5av>

delicious!



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

6TH GRADE SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR



8 LESSONS

IN CLASSROOM
ONCE A MONTH

Each class is about an hour
from September
through April



FIELD TRIP

OUTDOOR SKILLS
DAY - FORT KEARNY

Students will test their skills in
Geocaching, Fishing, Dutch
Oven Cooking, Archery,
Fire Starting, & more!



COST

ENTIRE PROGRAM
COST IS \$130

Includes classroom lessons,
program supplies and field
trip to Fort Kearny



CHOOSE 8 LESSONS

- **Pollinator Education** - Learn about honeybees with the help of an observation hive.
- **Life of a Tree** - Discover parts of a tree and what tree cookies tell us about a tree. Includes leaf printing activity.
- **NEW - All About Bats**: From pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal, they play an important role in our ecosystem. Lesson includes a hands-on activity on White Nose Syndrome.
- **Mammals of Nebraska** - Class will learn about predator/prey relationships.
- **Dissecting Owl Pellets** - Find out what owls eat and how they digest their prey.
- **Web of Life** - with special guests: Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches! Students will learn about the food chain and experience a cockroach tractor pull.
- **Water's Incredible Journey** - Class will learn about movement of water in our water cycle.
- **Birds of Nebraska** - Learn how to identify birds by color, size and song. Students will make their own birdfeeder.
- **Mammal Tracks & Scat** - Learn to identify Nebraska mammal tracks with plaster track-making activity.
- **Fish Species of Nebraska** - Students will learn all about freshwater fish and enjoy a fish-printing activity.
- **First Aid in the Field** - Learn basic first aid specific to outdoor adventures. Students will make a pocket first aid kit.

Have questions? Contact Heidi Darby,
Buffalo County 4-H Assistant, at 308-236-1235 or hdarby2@unl.edu



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. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

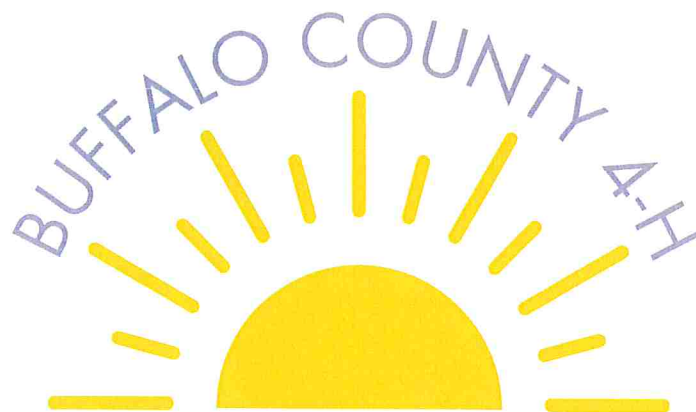


Sign-up for a
workshop to
meet new
friends!

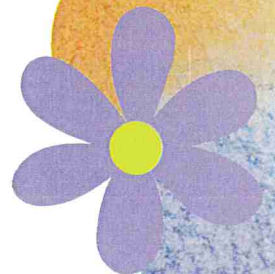


2025

SUMMER WORKSHOPS!



Buffalo County Extension Office



Sign-up for a
workshop to
learn
something
new!

JUNIOR TEMPT, TASTE, TRY

Meet 4-H friends, learn something new & create 4-H projects to exhibit at fair!

Youth ages 8-12 (as of Jan. 1) can choose 4 projects for full day or 2 for half day to create and show at the Buffalo County Fair.

If choosing a half day, morning session is 9-11:35 a.m./afternoon session is 12:25-3 p.m.



When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, June 12

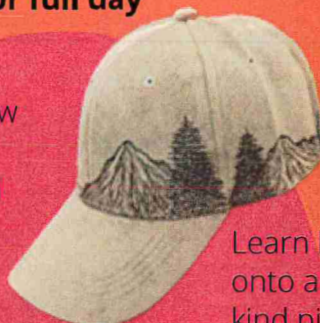
Where: Buffalo County Extension Building

Register by June 1: <https://go.unl.edu/jrttt2025>

Lunch included only for full day

Textured Paint

Participants will learn a new technique using napkins and paint to create a fun textured painting! All youth will leave with a framed painting. \$10



Hat Burning

Learn how to burn a design right onto a hat to create a one-of-a-kind piece! This session does require the use of hot tools. All participants will leave with a hat of their choice! \$10



Soap Molding

We are keeping it **Green** and repurposing in this session. Participants will learn how to use soap shavings to make soap balls and also will be melting soap shavings to mold into fun shapes. In the spirit of 4-H, we will be using clover molds! \$10



Shabby Chic American Flag

Get ready for the 4th of July with this beautiful Shabby Chic American Flag project. Select from a variety of ribbons and personalize your flag. Participants will use ribbons and fabric to make this Americana art piece. \$10



Fish Printed Tote Bag

Learn about Fish of Nebraska and create a one-of-a-kind piece of art using the ancient Japanese art technique of Gytaku. Choose from a variety of fish and print them on your tote bag using fabric paints. \$10



Cinnamon Scone

Learn to bake delicious cinnamon scones using whole grains. This hands-on session will guide you through the process of baking with whole wheat flour while adding nutrition to your homemade treats! \$10



Flower Pounding Aprons

Practice the ancient art of Tataki Zome, also known as flower pounding, to decorate a cotton apron. Youth will use rubber mallets and fresh flower petals to create beautiful one-of-a-kind patterns on aprons. \$10

SENIOR TEMPT, TASTE, TRY

Meet 4-H friends, learn something new & create 4-H projects to exhibit at fair!

Youth ages 13-18 (as of Jan. 1) can choose 4 projects for full day or 2 for half day to create and show at the Buffalo County Fair.



If choosing a half day, morning session is 9-11:35 a.m./afternoon session is 12:25-3 p.m.



When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 11

Where: Buffalo County Extension Building

Register by June 1: <https://go.unl.edu/srttt2025>

Lunch included only for full day

Textured Paint

Participants will learn a new technique using napkins and paint to create a fun textured painting! All youth will leave with a framed painting. \$10



Soap Molding

We are keeping it **Green** and repurposing in this session. Participants will learn how to use soap shavings to make soap balls and also will be melting soap shavings to mold into fun shapes. In the spirit of 4-H, we will be using clover molds! \$10



Fish Printed Art

Learn about Fish of Nebraska and create a one-of-a-kind piece of art using the ancient Japanese art technique of Gytaku. Choose from a variety of fish and print them on your artwork using fabric paints. \$10



Shabby Chic American Flag

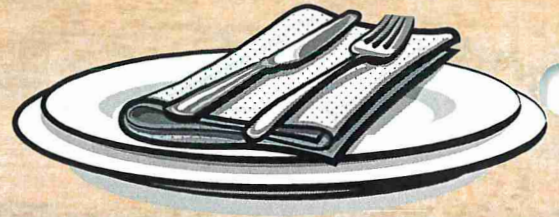
Get ready for the 4th of July with this beautiful Shabby Chic American Flag project. Select from a variety of ribbons and personalize your flag. Participants will use ribbons and fabric to make this Americana art piece. \$10



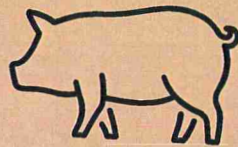
Flower Pounding Aprons

Practice the ancient art of Tataki Zome, also known as flower pounding, to decorate a cotton apron. Youth will use rubber mallets and fresh flower petals to create beautiful one-of-a-kind patterns on aprons. \$10

Culinary Challenge



Youth will learn healthy-decision making skills in nutrition, food preparation, menu planning and food safety using the Challenge Ingredient: **PORK**



- CREATE A BALANCED MENU
- LEARN ABOUT PORK
- PREPARE A FOOD ITEM
- CHOOSE A THEME
- GO SHOPPING FOR PLACE SETTINGS

Parents are invited at 2:30 p.m. for youth to showcase their tables & menus

Youth are not required to do the Culinary Challenge if they do this workshop



When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 16

Where: Buffalo County Extension

Who: 8 and up

Cost: \$30 - Includes lunch, snack & place setting items

Register by June 10: Visit <https://go.unl.edu/63w8>

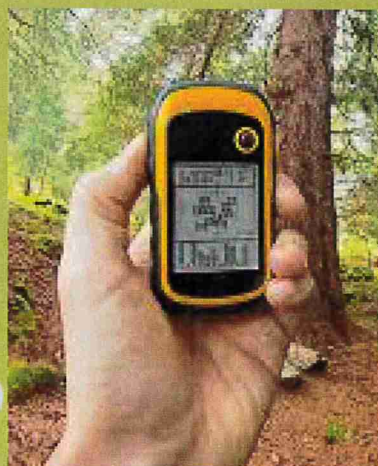


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Compass Navigation & GEOCACHE Workshop



- *Learn to use a compass, then test your orienteering skills on a compass course*
- *Go on a Geocache Treasure Hunt*



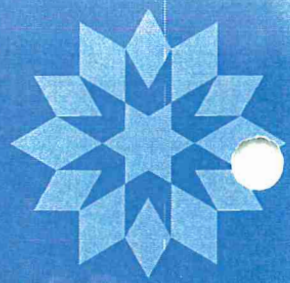
When: Tuesday, June 24 - 9:30-11:30 a.m. OR 1-3 p.m.

Where: Buffalo County Extension

Cost: \$9 - Snack included

Register by June 17: Visit <https://go.unl.edu/k95g> or scan QR code

BARN QUILT WORKSHOP

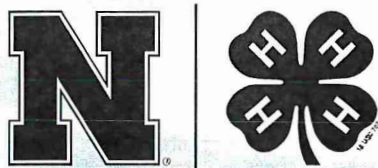
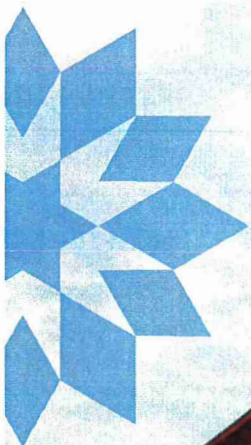
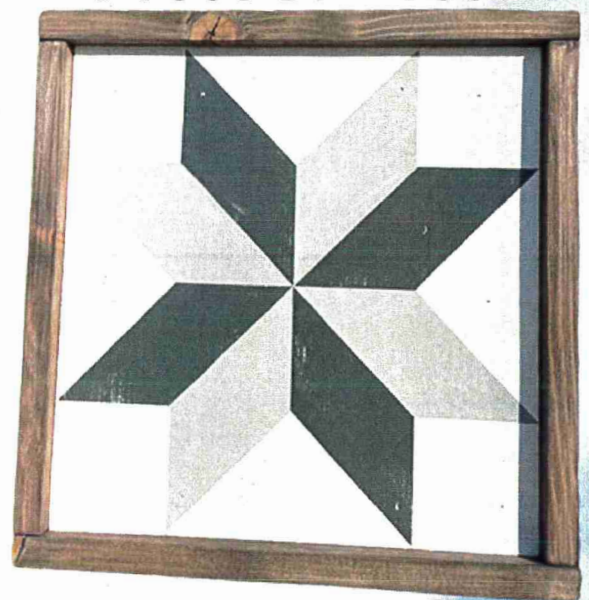


Learn how to make a barn quilt

- Choose from 3 different patterns
- Learn how to properly measure
- Paint your design

***Parents are required to stay and assist their 8-10 year-old youth**

1 FOOT BY 1 FOOT



When: 9 a.m. to noon June 30

Where: Buffalo County Extension

Who: 8 and up

Cost: \$30 - Snack provided

Register by June 25: Visit

<https://go.unl.edu/vnxg>



**MEET
NEW 4-H
FRIENDS!**

All About Colors

**LEARN
ABOUT
4-H**

CLOVER KID ADVENTURE DAY

When: 9 a.m. to noon

Thursday, June 26

Where: Buffalo County
Extension

Who: Clover Kids ages 5-7

Cost: \$10 - Snack
provided

Register by June 20: Visit
<https://go.unl.edu/xafb>



**4-H
MEMBER-
ASSISTED
WORKSHOP**

*****YOUTH SHOULD
WEAR CLOTHING THAT
CAN GET DIRTY*****



**CREATE
AWESOME
PROJECTS FOR
THE BUFFALO
COUNTY FAIR!**

Apple Pie

HOMEMADE & ICE CREAM WORKSHOP

MAKE A CLASSIC AMERICAN DESSERT
TO CELEBRATE FOURTH OF JULY

- Learn to make a pie crust from scratch
- Make apple pie filling
- Make homemade ice cream



Workshop will provide great practice for fair



When: 1 to 4:30 p.m. July 2
Where: Buffalo County Extension
Who: 8 and up
Cost: \$12 - Snack provided
Register by June 27: Visit
<https://go.unl.edu/b5av>

delicious!





EXTENSION



DATE: December 9, 2024
TO: Private Pesticide Applicators
FROM: Talon Mues – Extension Instructor
RE: Private Pesticide Applicator License Renewal

Our records indicate that your private pesticide applicator certification expires this upcoming spring. To renew your certification, you can attend one of our upcoming training sessions. Multiple in-person trainings will be offered at the Dawson, Buffalo, and Hall County Extension Offices. Cost to attend a training is **\$60.00** (Cash or check payable to: **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**).

You should receive a letter/re-certification form from the NDA. **Please bring this barcoded letter to the training** to be submitted at the completion of the program.

****RSVP to the extension office you are planning to attend to ensure they have the appropriate supplies. If you are unable to attend an in-person training, there are additional certification options.****

Additional ways to renew your pesticide certification:

- 1) Nebraska Extension Crop Protection Clinics (CPC) held from 8:45AM—3:30PM. Dates and registration information found at: <http://agronomy.unl.edu/cpc>. (Cost: \$95)
- 2) Online self-study course (available after January 1st, 2025)
This course may be completed online at <http://pested.unl.edu/psephome> under 'Certification and Training'. (Cost: \$60)
- 3) Paper self-study option
The paper self-study option can be obtained by contacting the Pesticide Office:
402-472-1632; pested@unl.edu. (Cost: \$75)
- 4) Testing
Contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) to take a test (402-471-2351).
- 5) Commercial/Non-commercial certifications are **not** available at private pesticide trainings
Categories, initial and recertification training dates, times, and locations can be found here:
<https://pested.unl.edu/commercial-and-noncommercial-applicator-training-and-certification/>

IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ THIS!!!

*****Upon completion of the pesticide training, Nebraska Extension will send the NDA certification that you have completed the program. NDA will then send you a bill invoice (postcard) for the three-year state license. Upon receipt of your **\$25 payment**, NDA will issue your pesticide license.*****

If you have any questions, call the Dawson County Extension office at 308-324-5501.

2025 Private Pesticide Trainings (Dawson, Buffalo, Hall Counties)

More information found here: <https://pested.unl.edu/certification-and-training>

DATE:	LOCATION:	TIME:	COUNTY:	CONTACT:
Feb. 20	Buffalo County Extension Office- Kearney	9:30 am <i>or</i> 1:30 pm	Buffalo	308-236-1235
Feb. 27	Buffalo County Extension Office- Kearney	9:30 am <i>or</i> 1:30 pm	Buffalo	308-236-1235
Mar. 4	Hall County Extension Office- Grand Island	9:30 am <i>or</i> 1:30 pm	Hall	308-385-5088
Mar. 6	Dawson County Extension Office- Lexington	9:30 am <i>or</i> 1:30 pm	Dawson	308-324-5501
Mar. 11*	Dawson County Extension Office- Lexington	9:30 am	Dawson	308-324-5501
Mar. 13*	Hall County Extension Office- Grand Island	9:30 am	Hall	308-385-5088
Mar. 20*	Buffalo County Extension Office- Kearney	9:30 am	Buffalo	308-236-1235

*Dates have a paired chemigation training following the completion of private pesticide training

2025 Chemigation Trainings (Dawson, Buffalo, Hall, Custer Counties)

More information found here: <https://water.unl.edu/article/agricultural-irrigation/chemigation>

DATE:	LOCATION:	TIME:	COUNTY:	CONTACT:
Feb. 19 **Chemigation**	Custer County 4-H Building – Broken Bow	1:00 PM	Custer	308-872-6831
Mar. 11 **Chemigation**	Dawson County Extension Office- Lexington	1:30 PM	Dawson	308-324-5501
Mar. 13 **Chemigation**	Hall County Extension Office- Grand Island	1:30 PM	Hall	308-385-5088
Mar. 20 **Chemigation**	Buffalo County Extension Office-Kearney	1:30 PM	Buffalo	308-236-1235

2025 Crop Production Clinics

Private, Commercial, and Non-Commercial certification can be completed at these trainings.

More information can be found here: <https://agronomy.unl.edu/cpc>

DATE:	LOCATION:	TOWN:
January 8	Panhandle Research, Extension, and Education Center	Scottsbluff
January 9	West Central Research, Extension, and Education Center	North Platte
January 22	Lochland Country Club	Hastings
January 24	Holthus Convention Center	York
January 28	Crown Plaza Conference Center	Kearney

CORNHUSKER ECONOMICS



AG OUTLOOK



TAX CHANGES

AG POLICY OUTLOOK

**FARM PROGRAM
DECISIONS**

**CROP AND LIVESTOCK
MARKET TRENDS**

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

COST OF PRODUCTION

**RISK MANAGEMENT
STRATEGIES**

DECISION TOOLS



KEARNEY

DEC. 4, 2025

1-3 p.m.

**Nebraska Extension in
Buffalo County**

1400 E. 34th St.

Funding for this program was provided by the North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center: 2024- 2025 2024-70028-43552.

**Register by Dec. 2 at
cap.unl.edu/outlook
or 308-236-1235**



2025 SOYBEAN MANAGEMENT FIELD DAYS

- Four days, four locations
- Each location featuring a different focus
- Sessions with interactive discussion
- Complimentary meal and refreshments

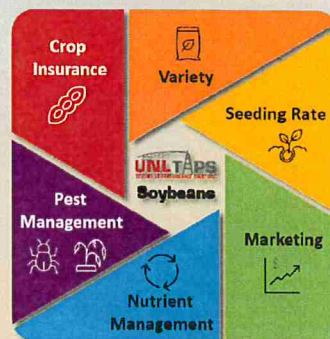
Please register 2 days in advance by going to go.unl.edu/soydays, scanning the QR code, or by calling 402-624-8030.



Over 25 years of providing growers with the latest in soybean production, management and marketing, now incorporating a Soybean TAPS competition focusing on profitability and efficiency.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the latest techniques and technologies in soybean production, while also networking with fellow farmers and industry experts.

- Learn best practices you can implement in your fields.
- Discuss issues important to you, from county specific to worldwide.
- Learn about what the Nebraska Soybean Board is doing in research, marketing and education.



Tuesday, Aug. 12 – Ravenna, NE (Lonnie and Scott Bohn farm)

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (5:30 p.m. – Registration)

Topics – Soybean TAPS competition, soybean diseases, and soybean market update

Thirty teams are competing in the 2nd annual Soybean TAPS competition this summer. Learn insights from last year's contest and progress this season, along with soybean disease management and an overview of the current soybean markets. In addition, you'll hear from MEG Corp about soy biodiesel and hear from your local Nebraska Soybean Board and Nebraska Soybean Association representatives.

- Dylan Mangel, Nebraska Extension Plant Pathologist
- Talon Muse, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Jeff Peterson, President, Heartland Farm Partners
- Chuck Burr, Nebraska Extension Educator

Wednesday, Aug. 13 – Concord, NE (UNL Haskell Ag Lab)

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (5:30 p.m. – Registration)

Topics – Soybean TAPS competition, white mold, and soybean market update

Thirty teams are competing in the 2nd annual Soybean TAPS competition this summer. Learn insights from last year's contest and progress this season, along with current research being conducted on controlling white mold and an overview of the current soybean markets. In addition, you'll hear from MEG Corp about soy biodiesel and hear from your local Nebraska Soybean Board and Nebraska Soybean Association representatives.

- Dylan Mangel, Nebraska Extension Plant Pathologist
- Chris Proctor, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Leslie Johnson, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Jeff Peterson, President, Heartland Farm Partners
- Nicole Luhr, Nebraska Extension Educator

Thursday, Aug. 14 – Weeping Water, NE (Rick Meyer farm)

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (5:30 p.m. – Registration)

Topics – Soybean TAPS competition and soybean gall midge research plots

Thirty teams are competing in the 2nd annual Soybean TAPS competition this summer. Learn insights from last year's contest and progress this season, along with the opportunity to walk research plots being conducted on controlling soybean gall midge. In addition, you'll hear from MEG Corp about soy biodiesel and hear from your local Nebraska Soybean Board and Nebraska Soybean Association representatives.

- Justin McMechan, Nebraska Extension Crop Protection and Cropping Systems Specialist
- John Nelson, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Chris Proctor, Nebraska Extension Educator

Friday, Aug. 15 – Mead, NE (UNL Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension & Education Center)

10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (10:00 a.m. – Registration)

Topics – Soybean TAPS competition, plot tour, and soybean market update

Join us Friday morning to discuss management decisions made by 30 teams participating in the 2nd Annual Soybean TAPS competition, learn insights from last year's contest, and get an overview of the current soybean markets. In addition, you'll hear from MEG Corp about soy biodiesel and hear from your local Nebraska Soybean Board and Nebraska Soybean Association representatives. After lunch, you'll have the opportunity to tour the Soybean TAPS competition plots and visit with researchers out in the field.

- Chris Proctor, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Dylan Mangel, Nebraska Extension Plant Pathologist
- Jeff Peterson, President, Heartland Farm Partners
- Aaron Nygren, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Chuck Burr, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Justin McMechan, Nebraska Extension Crop Protection and Cropping Systems Specialist



Maps, additional topic info, and more:

enreec.unl.edu/soydays

Questions: 402-441-3240

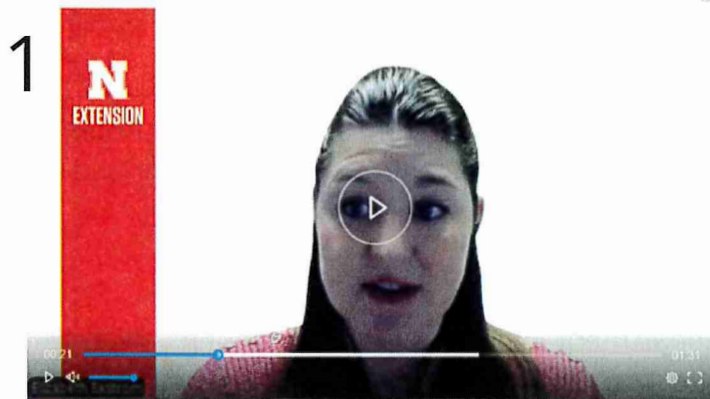


ELIZABETH EXSTROM

APRIL 2025
HORTICULTURE, LANDSCAPES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SYSTEMS

Buffalo County Extension to host wildfire ready workshop.

by Deandra Kutenbach | Tue, April 8th 2025 at 6:41 AM



Wildfire Ready Workshop- 15 individuals, including 2 county commissioners, attended the workshop that was planned in conjunction with Nebraska Extension, Kearney Volunteer Fire Department, Central Platte Natural Resource District, Nebraska Game and Parks, Buffalo County Emergency Management, and the Nebraska Forest Service in Kearney on April 8th.

1. NTV noon show discussing the need for Fire Smart Landscapes
2. Flyer for program advertising
3. Presentation on Fire Smart Landscaping
4. Panel Discussion

ELIZABETH EXSTROM

APRIL 2025

HORTICULTURE, LANDSCAPES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

- April 1- IANR & UNL Faculty Senate Meetings
- April 2- Judy Schaeffer consultation
- April 7- Site Assessment- Bohnart
- April 8- Grand Island Tree Board meeting
- April 8- Wildfire Ready workshop- 15 participants
- April 9- Buffalo County Rural Schools Life on the Farm 147 from several area schools
- April 9- GroBigRed Virtual Learning Series- Presented to 65 about Trees to Plant and Trees to Avoid with Chrissy Land with the Nebraska Forest Service
- April 9- Hall County Extension Board
- April 10- Zone 10 Spring Gathering in Hastings
- April 11- Agronomy and Horticulture Department Extension Faculty meeting
- April 12- Presentation about Tree Care to 15 participants at Wild Roots Nursery in Central City
- April 14- Nebraska State Fair Landscaping Committee Meeting
- April 15- Sherman County Open house
- April 17- Buffalo County Wildfire Coalition meeting
- April 17- Backyard Farmer television show on Nebraska Public Media
- April 18- Dawson County Coffee with Extension-5 participants
- April 18- Dawson County 4-H Special Garden Project workshop- 10 participants
- April 23- Pesticide Program Listening Session
- April 23- taught ServSafe Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to 9 in Kearney
- April 25- Arbor Day tree planting with Dodge Elementary in Grand Island- 25 participants
- April 25- Arbor Day tree planting with Park Elementary in Kearney - 50 participants
- April 28- Consultation with Mark and Delores Edwards
- April 30- Lawn Mower and String Trimmer Safety at Centura Elementary Ag Day to 100 youth

Clientele Contacts- 45 emails, 25 texts, 67 phone calls and walk-ins, 2 site assessments, & 375 program participants through 15 programs

