

Governor's Ag Excellence Applications Due March 17

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.

Applications are available on the 4-H Web site at 4h.unl.edu/foundation and are due by March 17. Clubs are encouraged to e-mail their application to dkarmazin2@unl.edu or submit hard copies to the extension office. For more information, contact Deanna at 441-7180.

Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium April 18-20

The Nebraska Beef Council and the University of Nebraska are hosting the first Annual Nebraska Beef Leadership Symposium.

This event will be held April 18-20 at the University of Nebraska. The targeted audience is high school juniors and seniors and community college students. The purpose of this event is to enhance your capabilities of becoming future leaders in the beef industry through leadership development and industry education that focuses on current industry issues.

The cost of this event is \$50. If you are interested in attending this awesome event, please contact Deanna at 441-7180 for registration and schedule information. (DK)

Unicameral Youth Conference June 13-16

The 4-H Unicameral Youth Conference 2004, held June 13-16, offers youth the opportunity to take on the role of a state senator for four days during which time they will debate bills, discover how a bill becomes law, learn about the importance of compromise and improve their debating skills.

The conference is open to youth who will be in grades 8-11 next fall and will be held at the Nebraska State Capitol and UNL East Campus Burr Hall.

Registration cost is \$125 (includes meals and housing). A limited number of scholarships are available. Register early — last year's conference filled up fast! First-timer applications are due April 1; applications for returning youth are due March 1. For applications or more information, visit 4h.unl.edu/kids or call Robert Meduna at 472-9582.

New Group Forming: 4-H J Team

If there is enough interest, Lancaster County 4-H will establish a "4-H J Team" which would provide teens with hands-on journalism experiences.

Members would work with local media to report on accomplishments of 4-H'ers and clubs. Opportunities could include writing newspaper articles, taking digital photos and giving radio & TV PSAs or interviews.

4-H'ers age 12 and above who might be interested, please contact Vicki Jedlicka at 441-7180.

Saltdogs National Anthem Auditions

4-H night at the Lincoln Saltdogs will be Friday, June 18. 4-H'ers who are interested in singing the National Anthem prior to the game should contact Vicki at 441-7180 by March 25.

Note: since the Saltdogs will be playing the Winnipeg Goldeyes, the person singing the National Anthem will also sing O' Canada.

Look in future NEBLINES for more information about 4-H night at the Saltdogs!

Two State Volunteer Forums in April

This year's Nebraska State 4-H Volunteer Forum will be held at the Eastern 4-H Center, Gretna, on April 2 and 3. A second forum will be held at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp in Halsey on April 23 and 24. A committee of 4-H volunteers from across the state developed this conference to give leaders an opportunity to network with other 4-H leaders, exchange successful 4-H programs among 4-H leaders and be introduced to new areas and projects. There will be numerous workshops offering hands-on learning experiences and new ideas and programs designed to enhance your club. Special early bird registration is \$60 if postmarked by March 16. Registration includes meals, snacks and Friday night's lodging. Registration scholarships are available from the 4-H Council. For more information, contact Tracy at 441-7180 or log on at www.4h.unl.edu. (TK)



4-H Partners with Libraries



The Lancaster County 4-H program will be working with the Lincoln City Libraries this summer to spread the word about 4-H and to promote reading.

Volunteer for Summer Reading Program

Middle-school-age 4-H'ers are invited to spend time at a library as a Summer Reading Program volunteer, helping other children participate in summer reading by signing them up, explaining the program and handing out stickers. They can wear their 4-H T-shirts and answer questions about the 4-H program. Scheduling is flexible and interested individuals should contact his or her branch library directly starting April 1. Each branch will have a limited number of volunteer slots for 4-H'ers, so call early.

4-H Workshops: Paper Crafts and Wildlife

Another way 4-H'ers and/or 4-H clubs can volunteer at the Lincoln City Libraries is by presenting one of the following two workshops: paper crafts and Nebraska wildlife. 4-H'ers can team up in this effort. These workshops will be held in June and July at the branch libraries. Call Tracy at 441-7180 if you are interested in this opportunity. Resource bags containing books, pamphlets and fair information have been created to go with each presentation. These bags will be housed at the Bennett Martin Public Library and will be available for check out to 4-H members, leaders and the general public.

Rent Room Space

Did you know that your club can reserve community room space for club meetings and activities? Bennett Martin Public Library, Anderson Branch, Gere Branch, Eiseley Branch and Walt Branch have community rooms available. To reserve a community room, call Arlene at 441-8503 or go to www.lcl.lib.ne.us and choosing Library Information. (TK)

Clover College will be June 22-25

Presenters, volunteers and workshop ideas are needed! Call Tracy Kulm at 441-7180 if you'd like to contribute. Last year, there were 27 workshops and over 300 registrations! (TK)

HORSE BITS

Lancaster County Horse Judging Team Places 4th at Nationals!



Last summer the team of Dana Hahn, Melissa Raisch, Katy Cockerill and Esther Anderson, qualified to represent the State of Nebraska at the National Judging Contest in Denver. The team showed amazing dedication and improvement in the year and a half that they prepared for the contest. They competed at various contests in Nebraska and Kansas to practice. In addition, they received wonderful support from local horse enthusiasts who let them hang around their barns and learn from anyone willing to talk to them.

The girls, along with their coach Kala Ball, made the trip in early January, where they as a team, placed fourth. What an accomplishment and honor to rank in the top five nation wide! All that hard work paid off, not only in placings at the Nationals, but also in the lifetime horsemanship knowledge and public speaking confidence gained. Congratulations!

A special thanks also to the Lancaster 4-H Council and the Horse VIPs whose contributions helped defray the team costs. (MC)

Don't Forget the Stampede

The statewide 4-H Horse Stampede will be March 13 at the Lancaster Event Center - Exhibit Hall. It is being held at the same time at the Horse Expo.

Lancaster County will have three teams competing in the quiz bowl, one participant in the public speaking, one participant in the horse demonstration contest and two art entries.

All 4-H'ers in the horse program are encouraged to show their support by attending! It is also a good way to see what the fun is about and consider competing next year. Schedule and information is at animalscience.unl.edu/horse/stampede.htm.

MARCH



Gene Veburg

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Gene Veburg as winner of March's "Heart of 4-H Award" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Gene has been a 4-H volunteer for 10 years. He is leader and county fair superintendent of the Lancaster County Shooting Sports BB Gun/Pellet Rifle/Pellet Pistol. He is co-leader of the Cool Clovers club with his wife Charlotte. (Their children, Emily and Michael, are members of both clubs.) Gene is also current president of 4-H Council and represents 4-H on the Lancaster County Extension Board.

"I like being a 4-H volunteer because the results of 4-H Youth development work are lifelong," Gene says. "I like meeting 4-H alums and learning about their lives."

His favorite experience volunteering at the County Fair was moving the fair to the Lancaster Event Center in 2001. He says, "Each year brings more opportunity for a better fair."

He lives in Lincoln and works at the Southeast Nebraska Livestock Market near Palmyra as well as at The Fort Western Catalog in Nebraska City. Gene is a past member of the Lancaster County Ag Society (Fair Board) and past member of the St. Andrews Lutheran's church council.

Gene was a 4-H member in California and raised sheep as a project.

Congratulations to Gene. Volunteers like him are indeed the heart of 4-H!



To nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer or leader, submit the form available online at lancaster.unl.edu/4h. Nominations of co-volunteers accepted.