

# The NEBLINE<sup>®</sup>

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"Helping Nebraskans enhance their lives through research-based education."

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## LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H'ERS AT STATE FAIR



See page 7 for listing and photos of Lancaster County 4-H'ers who earned top honors at the Nebraska State Fair.

## Discover 4-H, Discover You!

Vicki Jedlicka  
*Publication and Media Assistant*

4-H offers a wide variety of opportunities for you to discover your world, your community and yourself. YOU make your own choices and set your own goals!

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension 4-H youth development program is open to all youth ages 5-19.

There are no fees to join Lancaster County 4-H. There may be minimal fees for some activities, projects and clubs.

### Projects

4-H is a learn-by-doing program with more than 150 projects from which to choose. Project manuals are developed by University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension faculty and staff, as well as by the national 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System.

In addition to teaching practical skills, 4-H develops life skills such as thinking critically, solving problems, respecting self and communicating.

### Clover Kids

4-H'ers age 5 to 7 are

"Clover Kids." Clover Kids work on introductory level projects and exhibit noncompetitively at the County Fair.

### County Fair

Many 4-H'ers exhibit their projects at the Lancaster County Fair. This is a chance to showcase your work! Judges give feedback on your projects and award ribbons based on merit. Premium monies are awarded according to exhibit class and ribbon placing.

Now is the time to join 4-H so you can start working on projects to enter in next year's County Fair!

### Leadership Opportunities

4-H offers a wide variety of leadership opportunities through club officers 4-H Council, 4-H Teen Council, Citizen Washington Focus (CWF), awards and scholarships. Teens can use 4-H to explore future career interests.

Alyssa Fiala (age 16) says, "4-H Teen Council taught me to be a leader at an early age. Also, 4-H Council and CWF have taught me to work well with mature adults. Overall, 4-H has prepared me for life in every aspect"



*I have always had an interest in entomology. I became a 4-H member so that I could learn more about entomology. I have continued to expand and perfect my collection and have won several purple ribbons at the county and state fairs. Now, I am the entomology project leader for my club and I plan to continue studying entomology in college.*

—Lancaster County 4-H member, Joel Keralis (age 17)

## Five Ways to Join 4-H!

### Join an Existing 4-H Club

Lancaster County has more than 100 4-H clubs which range from 2 to 61 members. Each club is led by a club leader (often a club member's parent). Members choose their own club officers and set up their own meeting schedule. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings.

In traditional 4-H clubs, members complete several projects a year. There are also nontraditional 4-H clubs which focus on one particular area, such as small pets, rabbits or chess. 4-H'ers may belong to more than one club.

### Help Form a New 4-H Club

Currently, there are more youth wanting to be in 4-H clubs than there are clubs. Families are encouraged to help organize a new club — which is a lot easier than you may think! 4-H staff provides guidance and resource materials.

Butterflies and Bugs was one 4-H club started last year.

Organizational leader Leeza Moyer says, "Starting a new 4-H club is an easy and fun adventure! There is minimal paperwork for each child and adult volunteer to fill out. All you really have to do is find a couple of families and put together the group. Additional families can join as they see how much fun 4-H is! This is how our group has grown. We are fortunate to have so many new friends that have come through 4-H!"

### Be an Independent Member

With family schedules becoming increasingly busy, more and more youth are becoming independent 4-H members. This means you don't belong to a club but work on 4-H projects on your own.

Deb DeWald, mother of independent member Cody (age 10), says, "Being an independent member works well with our lifestyle. We are involved in the areas that we are interested in, receive all the rewards of being a 4-H family but do not have the time commitments of attending meetings. It is such a great experience not only for the kids

to be involved in the program, but for the family as well."

### Participate in 4-H Activities

Many 4-H activities are open to all youth (need not be enrolled in 4-H). Some of these are:

- 4-H Clover College which is four days of workshops each June
- 5th & 6th Grade Lock-In presented each January by the 4-H Teen Council
- 4-H Kids Discovery Agricultural Zone at the Lancaster County Fair
- Nebraska 4-H summer camps (with camps located near Gretna, Halsey & Alma)
- Big Red Summer Academic camps on University of Nebraska campus

### Through School Enrichment

4-H School Enrichment programs have been a part of Nebraska 4-H since 1974 and focus primarily on science. Many public, private and home schools in Lancaster County have implemented 4-H  
*see JOIN 4-H on page 11*

## Choose Your Project(s)!

There are more than 150 4-H projects to choose from in the areas of:

- Bicycles
- Cats
- Chess
- Child Development
- Clothing
- Computers
- Conservation & Wildlife
- Dogs
- Electricity
- Entomology
- Flowers/Gardening
- Foods
- Forestry
- Home Environment
- Horses
- Household Pets
- Leather Craftsmanship
- Livestock (beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goats, llamas)
- Photography
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Rocketry
- Shooting Sports
- Small Engines
- Theater Arts
- Woodworking

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