



June

Ron Dowding

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Ron Dowding of Bennet as winner of June's "Heart of 4-H Award" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Ron has volunteered for Lancaster County 4-H for more than 20 years. He was organizational leader of Happy Go Lucky club for many years (in photo, he is wearing a belt buckle presented to him by the club). The club has been one of the larger 4-H clubs in Lancaster County. Ron has served as a county fair 4-H Sheep superintendant, 4-H recruiter, 4-H Council member, livestock VIPs committee member and Extension Board member. He also sponsors several livestock trophies.

"Being a 4-H volunteer is a great opportunity to give back to a program that's been a big part of my life," says Ron. "From that first rabbit at 8 years old to showing swine, sheep, dairy and beef cattle in Otoe County 4-H, to raising a small herd of registered shorthorns today in Lancaster County. My favorite part of volunteering is watching the youth not only of our club, but the youth of all Lancaster County 4-H grow into champions!!! It is very rewarding watching that little brother or sister too young for 4-H grow and mature through 4-H."

Ron has been married to Arlene for 30 years and their children Jana and Nate were 4-H members. Recently, Ron became a grandpa to daughter Jana's quadruplets! He works at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Ron is a Lancaster County Agricultural Society board member (he currently is Vice President) and he volunteers through his church.

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

Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer by submitting the form online at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/4h> or available at the extension office. Nominations of co-volunteers welcome.



Pre-Fair Leader Training, May 23

New leaders, experienced leaders, 4-H members and parents are invited to this leader training on Tuesday, May 23, 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Come and receive information on how to fill out the entry tags, the in's and out's of interview judging, contests and other important county fair information. Preregister by May 22 by calling 441-7180.

Presentation Workshop, June 15

There will be a Presentation Contest workshop on Thursday, June 15, 1:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Attend this workshop to prepare for the Presentation Contest. This workshop will teach youth and volunteers about the three presentation classes, give tips on how to be a great presenter and help with presentation ideas!

Animal ID's Due June 15

All identifications for 4-H/FFA sheep, goats, swine, breeding beef, bucket calves, dairy cattle and rabbits which will be entered in the Lancaster County Fair are due to extension by Thursday, June 15.

Nebraska State Fair 4-H Broiler Show

Broilers for the Nebraska State Fair 4-H Broiler Show must be ordered by June 30 from Gage County Extension Office. There is a minimum order of 50 birds. Cost is \$1.10 per bird. The order form can be picked up at extension or online at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/4h>

Life Challenge Contests

4-H Life Challenge judging contests help youth learn more about issues related to family and consumer science (FCS). Contests are open to all 4-H'ers, need not be enrolled in a specific project. Preregistration is not needed for the county-level contests. Contact Tracy at 441-7180 for more information.

County-level Senior Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) is scheduled for Friday, June 9, 10 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Contest questions will be based on the following 4-H manuals:

Fast Foods, You're the Chef, Foodworks, Youth in Motion, Shopping in Style, Attention Shoppers, Design Decisions and Home Building Blocks.

The statewide FCS Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) will be held Monday, June 26 and Tuesday, June 27 on UNL East Campus. To participate, please contact Tracy by June 5.

The county-level Junior Life Challenge (ages 8-11) will be held Friday, July 7 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Contest questions will be based on the following 4-H manuals: Six Easy Bites, Attention Shoppers, Health A "Discovering Myself" and The Sitter.

Premier Animal Science Events, June 26-27

The statewide 4-H Premier Animal Science Events (PASE) will be held June 26-27 at the Animal Science Department on UNL's East Campus. If you are interested in being on one of the county's livestock judging, meats, poultry or dairy judging teams, please contact Deanna by June 5 to register for the event.

Horticulture Judging Contest, July 7

The Horticulture Judging Contest will be held Friday, July 7, 10 a.m.-Noon at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Contest is open to all 4-H'ers — need not be enrolled in a horticulture project. Preregistration is not required. Study material is available from extension. Contact Mary Jane at 441-7180 for more information.

Youth choose which of the following portions of the contest to participate in:

- **Tree Identification** — identify 20 tree samples with proper name and spelling.
- **Grass & Weed Identification** — identify 20 grass and weed samples with proper name and spelling.
- **Horticulture Judging Contest** — consists of a written test, identification and judging.

Presentations Contests, July 15 and August 5

Presentations provide 4-H members the opportunity to learn to express themselves clearly and convincingly, organize their ideas and present them in logical order, research subjects, have confidence in themselves and emphasize the major points through the use of visuals or examples. There are three methods in which 4-H'ers may present: 1) presentation using LCD, slide, video or overhead projector; 2) presentation using posters; or 3) multimedia presentation. You choose which date works for you: Friday, July 14 beginning at 1 p.m. or Saturday, Aug. 5 beginning at 8 a.m. Preregister by Friday, July 7. See Fair Book page 35 for complete contest information.

HORSE BITS

New Horse Rules Book is Available

The new revised 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide is now available at the extension office.

Salt Creek Wranglers Hold Pre-Districts Practice, May 20 and June 11

The Salt Creek Wranglers are providing a chance to practice for districts within their 4-H Silver Dollar Series. The show on Saturday, May 20 will highlight the English classes using the district format. Sunday, June 11 the western classes will be run in the district format. Registration starts at 8 a.m. Showbills on these and other area horse shows are online at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/4h/news.htm>

County Fair Horse IDs Due June 1

4-H horse identifications for the Lancaster County Fair are due in the extension office by Thursday, June 1. Late ID forms WILL NOT be accepted.

Please take the time to fill forms out completely and thoroughly. Draw your horse's markings on the picture as accurately as you can. Also, be sure to indicate the horse's color on the drawing. ID forms can be picked up at the extension office.

Ft. Robinson Horse Camp, June 8-10

The 2006 4-H Horse Camp at Ft. Robinson State Park near Crawford, NE will be held June 8, 9 and 10. For registration and further information call the Dawes County Extension Office at (308) 432-3373.

State Hippology and Judging Forms Due June 1

Hippology and judging entry forms for the State 4-H Horse Exposition at Fonner Park are due to the extension office on Thursday, June 1. Contest entry forms are available at the extension office or online at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/4h>

Note: to be eligible for the State 4-H Horse Show All-Around Awards, a 4-H member must compete in either the Horse Judging Contest or the Hippology Contest, or have competed in one of the contests associated with the 4-H Horse Stampede.

2006 4-H Horse Judging Clinics

May 31, 8:30 a.m. — Pitzer Ranch at Ericson, NE. Contact Steve Niemeyer at (308) 346-4200
June 8, 9:30 a.m. — Huffman Ranch at Whitman, NE. Contact Jay Jenkins at (402) 376-1850
June 29, 8:30 a.m. — Pine Ridge Stables at Ashland NE. Contact Monte Stauffer at (402) 444-7804

Riding Skills Group Testings, June 13 & July 8

As of March 18, 2006, all riding skills level tests must be done in group testings. Individual tests done by leaders will no longer be accepted. Remaining test dates (location and times to be announced) will be Tuesday, June 13 and Saturday, July 8.

Please RSVP at least one week in advance of the test date to Marty at 441-7180 or mcruckshank2@unl.edu.

County Fair Entry Forms Due July 7

All County Fair Horse Entry Forms are due in the extension office by Friday July 7. NO LATE ENTRIES will be accepted.

Reminder....You must have passed all Level I Horsemanship requirements to show at the County Fair. You must have passed Level II to participate in off-the-horse roping classes. Bareback Equitation requires a level III.