

In This Issue

- Farm Views..... 2
- Urban Agriculture ... 3
- Food & Fitness 4
- Home & Family Living.. 5
- Horticulture..... 6
- Environmental Focus . 7
- 4-H & Youth 8–9
- Community Focus... 10
- Miscellaneous ... 11–12



HELP START A 4-H CLUB

— see back page



Introducing the Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program

Now is a good time to choose goals for the next 4-H year!



The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program is a new statewide program which encourages 4-H members to engage in a variety of projects and activities. Every 4-H'er who participates can earn recognition! At the beginning of the 4-H year, youth choose goals from a provided list, and at the end of the 4-H year, fill out a report which documents their accomplishments.

Youth can progress from Level 1 up to Level 6. For each level, the Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover program provides a list of accomplishments which are age-appropriate and increase in quantity and difficulty for each level.

For example, here is the list of accomplishments for Level 1 – Amethyst. 4-H'ers ages 8–9 choose at least 3 of the following:

- Learn the 4-H Pledge, Motto and Colors
- Attend at least 60% of club/project meetings
- Attend at least one local 4-H activity or event (i.e. educational program, contest, county fair)
- Host a meeting, provide refreshments, lead a game or give a report
- Help with 4-H promotion (i.e. hand out 4-H window clings, make 4-H bookmarks for libraries, wear 4-H T-shirt, give out seed packets with “4-H Helps You

Level	Corresponding Gemstone Identifier	Anticipated for	Complete at least
Level 1	Amethyst	ages 8–9	3 accomplishments
Level 2	Aquamarine	ages 10–11	4 accomplishments
Level 3	Ruby	ages 12–13	5 accomplishments
Level 4	Sapphire	ages 14–15	6 accomplishments
Level 5	Emerald	ages 15–17	7 accomplishments
Level 6	Diamond	ages 16 & up	8 accomplishments and a service-learning project

- Grow” labels)
- Complete at least one 4-H project
 - Complete your 4-H Career Portfolio for the year
 - Bring a friend to a 4-H meeting or activity
 - Other (appropriate for Level 1)

At What Level do 4-H'ers Begin?

The program is designed for 4-H members ages 8 and up to begin at Level 1 and progress through Level 6, one level per year, achieving each recognition level only once. Youth who are older may begin at a higher level (2–4) as is mutually agreeable to the participant and the parent/guardian or leader. In order for a 4-H'er to begin at Level 5 or 6, extension staff must also be in agreement.

How are Accomplishments Documented?

All Diamond Clover Program Levels use a Plan & Report form. At the beginning of the 4-H year (timing is somewhat flexible), 4-H members complete the front page (PLAN portion) of the Plan & Report form. Participants print, sign and save the plan to accompany the report at the end of the 4-H year. 4-H members may fill out the REPORT portion of the form as they complete their accomplishments throughout the year, or at the end of the 4-H year. At the end of the year (Jan. 2 is the Lancaster County 4-H deadline), print, sign and mail your Plan & Report form to the extension office.

Level 6 uses additional forms for a service-learning project.

Who Approves the Forms?

Levels 1–4 require the approval of a 4-H member's parent/guardian. If the 4-H member belongs to a 4-H club, club leader approval is also required (if 4-H member belongs to more than one club, choose one leader). Levels 5 and 6 require the approval of a local county extension staff member.

How and When are 4-H Members Recognized?

4-H members will obtain a certificate of achievement at the end of the 4-H year once they have completed a level. Levels 1 through 5 are awarded by the local county extension office. Lancaster County 4-H will recognize recipients at Achievement Night which is usually held in February. Level 6 – Diamond recipients will be presented a certificate and diamond clover pin by the state 4-H office.

Benefits of Diamond Clover Program

For youth:

- Recognition improves self esteem of youth
- Enhance the progress toward self-set goals
- Develops life skills
- Encourages and supports lifelong learning
- Provides opportunities for youth/adult partnerships
- Resumé building

For volunteers/adults:

- Provide achievement opportunities to 4-H members
- Encourages positive and progressive leadership in youth
- Promotes retention and recruitment for 4-H membership
- Engages 4-H members in a variety of educational projects and activities
- For all members

For communities:

- 4-H develops competent, caring and contributing citizens
- Prepares youth and adult leadership in the community
- Provides source of community pride

Level 6–Diamond

The Level 6–Diamond is the highest level a 4-H'er can earn. It requires a major service-learning project which may take up to 24 months to complete. Service-learning projects could be anything that would benefit a community. Examples might include organizing the repair of picnic tables and shelter in a small community park, planting trees, cleaning a community building and conducting projects which serve the less fortunate. 4-H'ers will have guidance from a local Diamond Clover Advisory Committee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the UNL Extension in Lancaster County office or go to <http://4h.unl.edu/kids/diamond>

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 537
 Lincoln, Nebraska

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Lancaster County 4-H Council
 University of Nebraska–Lincoln
 Extension in Lancaster County
 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507

Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program
PLAN & REPORT
Level 3 – Ruby
 Anticipated for ages 12–13

Name _____ County _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Age (as of January 1 of this year) _____ Years in 4-H (including this year) _____

4-H Membership: Independent
 Club(s) — please list: _____

PLAN for Level 3 – Ruby
 Complete at the beginning of the 4-H year

Check at least 5 accomplishments you plan to complete this 4-H year:

- Attend at least 60% of club/project meetings
- Help with a club or community service-learning project
- Assist with a 4-H promotion (i.e. parade float, classroom visits, carnival booth, thank you to “Friends of 4-H”)
- Participate in a 4-H communications event (i.e. speech, oral reasons, presentations)
- Participate in at least two local 4-H activities or events (i.e. county educational program, county fair)
- Attend a 4-H resident camp or overnight experience
- Attend at least one regional, district or state 4-H event (i.e. PASE, Life Challenge, State Fair)
- Complete at least one 4-H project from a new project area
- Complete your 4-H Career Portfolio for the year
- Recruit a new 4-H member
- Other (appropriate for Level 3)

I have reviewed this plan and find it complete, accurate and adequate to meet the requirements for Level 3 – Ruby of the Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program.

4-H Member Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

4-H Leader Signature _____ Date _____

Please print, sign and save plan to accompany report at the end of the 4-H year.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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

Forms are available at the extension office and online as fill-in pdfs and Microsoft Word documents at <http://4h.unl.edu/kids/diamond>