

4-H Youth Learn Leadership, Citizenship and Life Skills

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension 4-H youth development program is open to all youth ages 5–18. Emphasis is on developing life skills through learning-by-doing. In the past year, 4-H reached **more than 21,865 youth** in Lancaster County.



- Lancaster County 4-H consists of:
 - **Organized Clubs**—Lancaster County has around 120 4-H clubs. Each club ranges from 5 to 54 members and is led (or co-led) by adults. Youth choose officers to run meetings. Clubs usually participate in one or more projects together.
 - **Independent Members**—With increasingly busy schedules, more and more youth are becoming independent 4-H members. Youth work on 4-H projects on their own.
 - **Projects**—Youth can choose from more than 150 4-H projects. Project manuals are developed by university experts.
 - **School Enrichment**—4-H programs for classrooms include: Garbology (for 2nd grade), Embryology (for 3rd grade), Ag Awareness Festival (for 4th grade), Earth Wellness Festival (for 5th grade) and Nutrition Education Program (for K–8th grades). These curricula meet Nebraska Curriculum Standards.
 - **After-School Programs**—25 Lincoln after-school programs have incorporated 4-H projects into their activities, 4 sites have formed 4-H clubs and 21 summer sites participated in 4-H county fair exploration activities.
 - **4-H Embryology Web Site**—EGG Cam and other resources at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Embryology>
 - **Educational Events**—4-H staff organize educational events each year such as Clover College, speech workshops and leader trainings. The 2008 Lancaster County Fair showcased 4,467 4-H exhibits.
 - **Leadership Opportunities**—4-H Teen Council, 4-H Council, Citizen Washington Focus group and more.



In June, the Lancaster County 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) group—33 teens and 4 sponsors—traveled by bus on a 15-day itinerary to Washington D.C. CWF is a citizenship and leadership program.



The Lancaster County 4-H dog club, Canine Companions, was a recipient of the 2008 Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards. These funds were matched by the Lancaster County Agricultural Society to purchase new dog agility equipment.



"I know how to grow plants and to identify weeds, trees, plants and flowers."

—Kyle Pedersen, 4-H member



This was the second year a Special Needs Horse Show was held at the Lancaster County Fair.



Lancaster 4-H partnered with many after-school summer sites to provide a county fair-related curriculum with hands-on activities which could be done before the Lancaster County Fair. The groups were then invited to experience the fair hands-on.



At Ag Awareness Festival, fourth graders rotate between interactive stations such as Dairy Calves, Ruminant Nutrition and Farm Technology.



"UNL Extension has developed materials in numerous languages and continues to expand its educational and informational materials in additional languages to meet the growing needs of our community."

—Kendra Penrod, member of Lancaster County Extension Board



"I know how to maintain my yard. I know when and how to prune the trees and how to care for the perennial plants."

—Laura Pales, homeowner



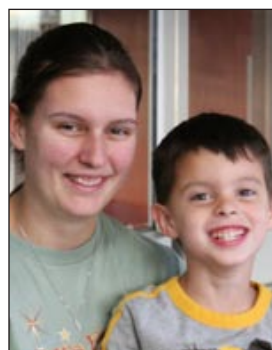
"I know how to fulfill my legal obligations to the court as a guardian."

—Cory Cooper, Guardianship Training attendee



"I know how to do a lot of things, such as be thrifty and keep my family healthy."

—Darleen Isley, Family & Community Education Clubs 55-year member



"We know how to use MyPyramid to make healthy meals and snacks."

—Megan & Aidan Battiato, Nutrition Education Program participant



"I know how to use digital photography to better appreciate and understand insects and the natural world."

—Pat Lopez, Insect Photography class participant



"I know how to use biosolids to improve my soil, increase crop yields and save on fertilizer costs."

—Loren Neujahr, farmer and biosolids program cooperator



"I know how to better lead the younger kids in my 4-H club."

—Emily Steinbach, 4-H Teen Council member



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.

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