

The NEBLINE

February 2012

444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528 • 402-441-7180 • <http://lancaster.unl.edu>

4-H Diamond Clover Program Helps Youth Plan and Achieve Goals

The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program is designed to encourage 4-H youth to engage in a variety of projects and activities that will enable members to acquire the life skills necessary to lead successful lives as competent, caring, and contributing citizens. The program's overall goal is to provide 4-H members a rich and diverse learning experience.

The program consists of six levels that require a 4-H member to plan and report a broad range of age-appropriate accomplishments. The program is designed to enable every 4-H member willing to exert the effort an opportunity to be recognized, regardless of how they are involved in 4-H.

For each level, the Diamond Clover program provides a list of age-appropriate activities, increasing in number and difficulty for each level. At the beginning of the 4-H year, youth choose goals from a provided list for their level. At the end of the 4-H year, youth fill out a report of their accomplishments and what they learned.

The Diamond Clover program debuted in early 2008. Through 2010,* 133 Lancaster County youth completed Plans and Reports, and were recognized at annual Achievement Nights.

In 2010, Lancaster County 4-H had its first 4-H'er earn the Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program's highest honor — the Diamond Award. Kyle Pedersen did a two-part service-learning project of transplanting plants to a children's home, and helped start a 4-H club for children living at the home.

Here are some testimonials and examples from 2010 Lancaster County 4-H'ers in the Diamond Clover Program.

What Youth Say About Diamond Clover Program

- **Caleb Nielsen** — "The 4-H Diamond Clover Program helps you plan accomplishments that you want to achieve during the year."
- **Emily Steinbach** — "By participating in the Diamond Clover Award, I have learned that succeeding in 4-H isn't about how many projects you enter in the county fair. By earning the Sapphire and Emerald Clover Awards I have learned that growing as a leader, participating in events such as PASE/ Life Challenge, and working towards achieving my Diamond Clover Award has given me skills and become a well-rounded 4-H member."



Reported accomplishment: learned the 4-H pledge, colors, and motto.

• **Spencer Peters** — "I learned that it is fun to try new projects. I have tried each year to enter in one new project area. It is great to learn new skills and I enjoy working with different people who help in our club. My favorite was encouraging a friend to join our club. We learned a lot about raising cows doing our bucket calf project together."

• **Alyssa Zimmer** — "The Diamond Clover Program helped me reach my goals and full potential in 4-H. I learned how to set goals early in the year and worked toward achieving those goals as the year progressed. When you know what your goals are, they are easier to reach."

• **McKenzie Kapperman** — "One of the goals I chose for the Amethyst program was to participate in a local 4-H contest, something I had never done before. I accomplished this goal by participating in the Junior Life Challenge contest at age 9. While I was nervous at first and one of the youngest participants there, the contest was actually fun and like all 4-H events, I even made some new friends that day. The Diamond Clover program is teaching me how important it is to set goals and not be afraid to try new things each year, because 4-H isn't about being perfect, it's about learning skills you might need in the future. For this I am grateful."

see **DIAMOND CLOVER** on back page



Reported accomplishment: attended at least 60 percent of club meetings.



Reported accomplishment: completed at least one 4-H project. In this Attention Shoppers fair exhibit, "Clothing wardrobe inventory," one jean mini skirt was mixed and matched to make five new outfits.



Reported accomplishment: completed a 4-H project. Walked her sheep every morning during the summer and learned more about how to manage the appropriate weight for each lamb.

Now is a Good Time to Choose Diamond Clover Goals

Near the beginning of the year, a 4-H member completes the "Plan" portion of the Plan & Report form, setting goals for the year. The plan is saved and at the end of the year, the "Report" portion of the form is completed. Both parts of the form are due to the extension office by Dec. 31. For forms and additional information, go to <http://4h.unl.edu/diamondclover> or call 402-441-7180.



Reported accomplishment: showed rabbits at fair. Learned about taking care of rabbits and multiple facts about rabbits. Also helped take down cages after the show.



Reported accomplishment: participated in a 4-H communications event. Gave a presentation, "Strawberry Smoothies" showing how to make a smoothie using nutritious foods for a healthy snack.

	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

*This article does not include 2011 numbers or examples.

IN THIS ISSUE

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



Watch Chicks Hatch Online with EGG Cam!

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Embryology>



To go to our home page on your smart phone, scan this code with a QR reader app.