

Lancaster County 4-H Horse Youth are National Champions!



Team Nebraska took the national High Overall State Award. The team included Lancaster and Douglas/Sarpy 4-H members. Lancaster County 4-H'ers were: Elli Dearmont, Megan Luedtke, Cory Peters, Ian Schuster, Erika Warner, and Kenzie Wolfe. Kendra Ronnau coached the Lancaster County youth.

In January, youth from 34 states and Canada traveled to Denver to take part in the 4-H/FFA Western National Roundup. Competitions in the Western National 4-H Horse Classic portion of the Roundup included horse bowl, hippology, public speaking, and individual and team demonstration. Each individual and team had to first win the state competition to qualify for nationals.

Team Nebraska which consisted of 4-H youth from Lancaster and Douglas/Sarpy Counties took the national title! The High Overall State Award is given to the state with the overall highest score based on placings in the five different competitions. Top five teams in the nation were, in order of placing: Nebraska, California, Mississippi, South Dakota, and Texas.

National Champions in Horse Bowl was the Lancaster team of Megan Luedtke, Cory Peters, Ian Schuster, and Erika Warner. The team won their first two rounds but then lost to Iowa in a close round. They then came back up through the losers bracket and again met Iowa in the championship round. Nebraska had to beat Iowa in two straight rounds for the national championship title. The top five teams ranked in placing order were: Nebraska, Iowa, Georgia, Kansas, and Texas.

Individual All-Arounds in Horse Bowl included Cory Peters tying for 1st, Megan Luedtke placing 3rd, and Erika placing 8th.

Coach Kendra Ronnau says, "With all of the hard work the team did — practicing as a group twice or more a week, and on their own every day — the kids made it not only so they could do well in quiz bowl, they made themselves into National Champions. More importantly, they created lifelong friendships and memories. All the Nebraska youth really did a superb job representing Nebraska! I couldn't be more proud of them."

Elli Dearmont took reserve national champion in public speaking with her speech entitled "Gut Feeling."

Kenzie Wolfe placed fifth in Individual Demonstration with her demonstration entitled "Million Dollar Mouth."

The Douglas/Sarpy Horse Judging team was reserve champion and the Douglas/Sarpy hippology team placed 3rd.

In the past, Nebraska youth have been champions in individual national events, however, UNL Extension Associate Marty Cruickshank believes this is the first time ever for Nebraska to win the Overall State national title in horse competitions!



Lancaster County Horse Bowl team of Megan Luedtke, Cory Peters, Ian Schuster, and Erika Warner earned national champions. Kendra Ronnau was coach.

4-H Diamond Clover

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• **Jacob Rushman** — "I learned how to plan what I wanted to achieve the beginning of the year, then the hard part was following through with my plan. The best part is receiving the award and recognition at achievement night."

Examples of Member Reported Accomplishments

- **Sam Schuster (Level 1 accomplishment: learning the pledge)** — "I learned that I'm not here for only me, that you need to get involved and that no matter how young you are, you can make a difference! I learned all this from the 4-H pledge."
- **Collin Schmidt (Level 1 accomplishment: hosted a meeting and provided refreshments)** — "I had a meeting at my house and had brownies."
- **Alyssa Zimmer (Level 1 accomplishment: attended 60 percent of club meetings)** — "I learned how to build a rocket and all the parts included in building a rocket. I learned about rabbits and what is needed to care for them. I learned how to tell several different breeds by looking at them."
- **McKenzie Kapperman (Level 1 accomplishment: 4-H community service)** — "During my first year of 4-H, my sister and I made birthday cards for the Meals on Wheels program each month. This past year, we decided it would be fun to actually deliver the meals. I have learned when you help people, they are so gracious."
- **Ashlynn Devall (Level 2 accomplishment: worked at the food booth)** — "I learned food safety at the county fair 4-H food booth."
- **Caleb Nielson (Level 2 accomplishment: attended at least two 4-H activities or events)** — "I attended the county fair and Clover College. I learned about bugs."
- **Jaclyn Heinrich (Level 2 accomplishment: 4-H club and community activities)** — "Our club held meetings each month. I attended all meetings and also went to all of our community projects such as highway cleanup. I also



Reported accomplishment: participated in three county 4-H activities. Learned how to show a horse, a dog, and rabbits.



spent time fundraising for the livestock auction."

- **Jacob Rushman (Level 2 accomplishment: completed Woodworking I Unit)** — "I completed the entire Woodworking Unit I by learning how to use various handtools and safety rules. I am now ready to utilize power tools and have already used a router."
- **Valerie Gabel (Level 3 accomplishment: participated in the Table Setting contest and Fair Fun Day tours)** — "When doing my table setting, I learned how to set dishes and silverware the correct way on a table. When I helped do tours, I learned I had to keep the children focused or they would not listen."
- **Ivy Dearmont (Level 4 accomplishment: participated in a 4-H communications event)** — "I participated in a team demonstration about horse riders apparel. I learned how to talk in front of people and more about horse rider apparel."
- **Spencer Peters (Level 4 accomplishment: helped a younger member with their project)** — "I helped a member in my 4-H club with his poultry project. I worked with him on his poultry showmanship so he would know what to expect for the actual show. I learned it is fun to help someone and see them learn and be excited about a project."
- **Emily Steinbach (Level 5 accomplishment: served as a 4-H camp counselor)** — "I attended the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center training in the beginning of June. I then signed up to help with a camp. I learned how to deal with a variety of situations with campers. I also learned how to entertain campers."
- **Kyle Pedersen (Level 6 accomplishment: service-learning project)** — "My project



Reported accomplishment: competed in the Bicycle Contest. Learned how to ride safely and utilize hand signals.



Reported accomplishment: served as club president and member of 4-H Teen Council.



Level 6 requires a service-learning project. Kyle Pedersen transplanted plants to a children's home and started a 4-H club at the home.

involved creating a 4-H club at a children's home and moving plants from a donor's yard to the children's home. I learned that even something as simple as placing plants around a children's home can make a difference. It was satisfying to bring a new experience to a group of youth who haven't had that experience before."

Local 4-H'er Publishes Book, Daisy Goes to the County Fair

Lancaster County 4-H'er Erica Peterson has recently published a children's book aimed at youth grades Kindergarten to third grade, *Daisy Goes to the County Fair*.

Erica has been a 4-H member for 10 years (exhibiting sheep, beef cattle, swine, photography, gardening, and many other projects), an FFA member for four years, and volunteered with Ag in the Classroom for five years.

Erica feels it is important youth and adults understand what farming is about and what is involved with farming today. She plans to go to University of Nebraska-Lincoln to study agricultural journalism. She hopes to continue to be an advocate for agriculture. She already has ideas for more books!

The book is available for sale at the Four Star Drug in Waverly and online from the publisher, Rose Dog Books (www.rosedogbookstore.com/dagotocofa.html), and Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble websites.

