**New In 2015 — 4-H Members MUST Be Enrolled Online by Jan. 31**

Nebraska 4-H is introducing a new 4-H online enrollment system, called “4-H Online.” 4-H members MUST enroll online by Jan. 31 — paper enrollment is no longer an option. The website to enroll is [https://ne.4honline.com](https://ne.4honline.com). The process is easy and only takes a few minutes per member.

**NOTE:** only parents/guardians may enroll 4-H members. Each 4-H household will need to set up a profile in which the 4-H youth for the household will be added.

The health information is optional! However, if the 4-H youth goes to a 4-H camp or participates in a state or national event, Nebraska 4-H highly recommends you fill it out. A step-by-step instruction guide with pictures is online at [http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/StepsToEnroll.pdf](http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/StepsToEnroll.pdf). If you have any questions about the process or need to log on to the computer, call Karen Vyskocil at 402-441-7180.

Current 4-H members that are not enrolled online by Jan. 31 will no longer be officially enrolled members. New members and fair projects may be updated through June 15. For now, volunteers and leaders must still enroll using the form at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/club/thendrollonleaders/pdf]. By June 15.

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**HEART OF 4-H VOLUNTEER AWARD**

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Karen and John Cooper as co-winners of February’s “Heart of 4-H Award” in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Six years ago, the Cooper started helping with the Pick-A-Pig 4-H club. When their daughters wanted to do more projects, Karen and John helped start the Buckles and Bling horse club of which Karen and Pam Davis are co-leaders. The Coopers are both members of the Volunteer Program (VIPS) Committee and John is a member of the Team Fair 4-H Horse Show Greavice Committee.

They were nominated by Kate Cooper who said, “My mom seems to find time to be a co-leader of our 4-H club, run our practices and help teach all the members riding skills, My dad helps coach the 4-H drill team. Our family enjoy 4-H and agree that it is a commitment, but they always make an effort to make it a little easier for someone else, even if it means that it’s harder for themselves.”

Karen and John said, “We enjoy volunteering with 4-H because it is something that we can do as a family and it allows us to share our farming and livestock heritage with our girls and friends. The thing that we enjoy most is watching all of the kids learn to train their own horses. Some are pigs for gos, llamas and chickens — the kids are required to do all the care, practice and preparation for shows, then they can take great pride in their own accomplishments.”

Lancaster County 4-H thanks Karen and John for donating their time and talents. Volunteers like them are indeed the heart of 4-H!

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**4-H Crocheting Workshop, Feb. 7**

- 4-H youth ages 10 and up are invited to learn how to crochet a washcloth utilizing the single crochet stitch at the “Basic Crocheting” workshop on Saturday, Feb. 7, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road. No cost — all supplies will be provided. Adults are welcome to attend to help 4-H'ers, Must pre-register by Feb. 4 by calling 402-441-7180.

- If you previously attended this workshop, you are welcome to attend again. 4-H'ers may enter washcloths at the Lancaster County Super Fair under 4-H Clothing — Level 1 Crochet.

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**4-H Pillow Sewing Workshop, Feb. 21**

- 4-H youth ages 8 and up are invited to practice their basic sewing skills and make jamamine bottoms at the “Jammin’ Lamboree” workshop on Saturday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road. No cost to attend. Adults are welcome to help. Sign up by Feb. 18 by calling 402-441-7180. Bring your sewing machine, basic sewing equipment (scissors, pins, measuring tape), etc. Also bring 1/3 yard and 2 1/2 yard contrasting fabrics, pre-washed, 100% cotton (no plaids, no knits) and matching thread. Pillow forms provided.

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**4-H Jammin’ Workshop, March 28**

- 4-H youth ages 8 and up are invited to practice their basic sewing skills and make jamamine bottoms at the “Jammin’ Lamboree” workshop on Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road. No cost to attend. Adults are welcome to help. Sign up by Feb. 18 by calling 402-441-7180. Bring your sewing machine, basic sewing equipment (scissors, pins, measuring tape, etc.), simple pull-on pajama bottom pattern, pre-washed flannel or 100% cotton fabric (no one-way design fabrics or plaid), elastic as recommended by pattern and matching thread. Sign up by March 26 by calling 402-441-7180.

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**NEW 4-H Companion Animal Challenge, March 14**

A new statewide Companion Animal Challenge for 4-H'ers 8-18 will be held Saturday, March 14 at the Animal Science Building on UNL East Campus. It provides youth a chance to participate in a variety of contests that do not require animals, but allow youth to learn more about their dog, cat, rabbit or other companion animals.

- **Demonstrations** (a demonstration or illustrated presentation)
- Photography and art contests (open to all companion animal projects)
- Dog quiz bowl
- Dog Skill-a-Thon
- Dog Obstacle Course
- Dog Obedience Club Building, 5740 Johanna Road. This one day workshop allows 4-H members time to learn about their dog and its care, as well as work hands-on with training activities with their dogs. Sessions will be held on obedience, agility, showmanship, health and working with your dog. Fee is $15 per person which includes a lunch. Adults may purchase a lunch for $5. More information and registration is at [www.companionanimal.unl.edu](http://www.companionanimal.unl.edu).

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**NEW 4-H Companion Animal Challenge**

Lancaster County 4-H Council will pay the entry fee for Lancaster County 4-H'ers. Entry forms are due to the Extension office no later than Feb. 13. T-shirts and buckle will be included as a gold-level reward option. However, due to the high demand, a buckle can only be chosen as an incentive reward for 4-H'ers and its cost is $5. More information is available at [http://go.unl.edu/4h4c](http://go.unl.edu/4h4c).

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**Horse Incentive Program Has Begun**

Any Lancaster County 4-H'er can participate in the Lancaster County 4-H Horse Incentive Program and log hours/points by participating in various horse-related activities Jan. 1–June 30.

Again this year, a belt buckle will be included as a gold-level reward option. However, due to the high demand, a buckle can only be chosen as an incentive reward for 4-H'ers and its cost is $5. More information and forms are available at [http://lancaster.unl.edu/equinehorse](http://lancaster.unl.edu/equinehorse).

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**Horse Bits**

State 4-H Horse Stampede Entries Due Feb. 13

The annual 4-H Horse Stampede will be held Saturday, March 14 at the UNL Animal Science Building on East Campus. Stampede includes the 4-H state horse-related competitions which do not require a horse: Horse Bowl, Public Speaking, Demonstration and Art Contest. Open to 4-H'ers ages 10–14 enrolled in the 4-H horse project (with the exception of the Art Contest). The Lancaster County 4-H Council will pay the entry test fees for Lancaster County 4-H'ers. Entry forms are due to the Extension office no later than Feb. 13. T-shirts and buckle will be included as a gold-level reward option. Entry forms are available at [http://go.unl.edu/4h4c](http://go.unl.edu/4h4c).

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**Horsemanship Level Testing Dates**

Now is a good time to start thinking about how 4-H horse-ownership level goals! The 2015 group testing will be held at the Lancaster Event Center – Amy Countryman Arena on the following Tuesday evenings: April 14, April 28, May 12, June 2 and June 30.