

# Experiential Learning Teaches Skills and More

By Tracy Anderson, Extension Educator in Lancaster County

One of the best ways instructors can engage young people in learning is to give them opportunities to “Learn by Doing.” This includes exploring and discovering, as opposed to just reading or listening to lectures. Instructors providing “Learning by Doing” are varied and could entail parents, teachers, volunteers and teens. As varied as the instructors are, so are the places “Learning by Doing” can happen, which could include at a beach, kitchen table, classroom, barn or 4-H meeting.

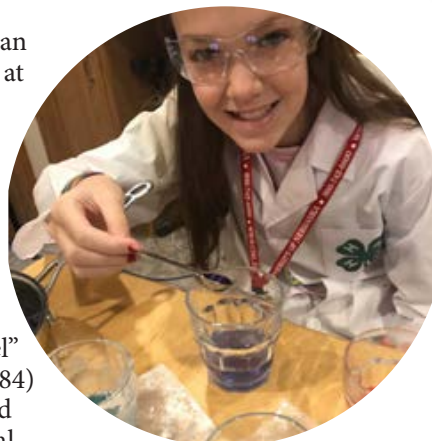
The phrase “Learning by Doing” is at the forefront of the 4-H youth development program and is a well-thought-through process grounded in the “Experiential Learning Model” developed by David Kolb (1984) and modified by 4-H. Divided into five steps, the experiential learning model helps teach skills, knowledge and life skills. Each step helps youth recognize what they have learned from an experience or activity and apply the skill, knowledge or life skill to other experiences or situations.

## TIPS

All steps are important in Experiential Learning. Oftentimes in education and learning, the learner spends most of their time on the experience. Spend as much time on the “Share,” “Process,”



4-H Living Room Learning Embryology Session



4-H Food Science Virtual Workshop



4-H/FFA Beef Showmanship at Lancaster County Super Fair

“Generalize” and “Apply” as the “Experience.” Experiential Learning is a continuous flow. For example, sometimes youth may want to return to the “Experience” to make changes due to the information they learned from their experiences or from others.

Some tips to help instructors guide young people through the five “Experiential Learning Model” steps.

- Ensure enough time is

available to reflect on the experience.

- Listen and ask the right questions.
- Plan developmentally appropriate experiences that lead to reflection.
- Support each youth’s way of learning.

Source: Kolb, D.A. (1984). “Experiential Learning: Experience as the Source of Learning and Development,” Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

## Five Experiential Learning Model Steps

### DO

**1. Experience** the activity; perform, or do it. Youth engage in a hands-on educational learning experience.

### REFLECT

**2. Share** the results, reactions and observations publicly. Example questions to ask youth:

- What did you do?
- Where did you go?
- What was easiest?
- What was most difficult?
- What did you learn while doing this project?

**3. Process** by discussing, looking at the experience; analyze, reflect and identify common themes. Example questions to ask youth:

- What did you learn from this project that you didn’t know before?
- How did you make your decision? What steps did you take?
- What life skill(s) were you developing through your project?

• What did you learn from sharing with others?

### APPLY

**4. Generalize** to connect the experience to real-world examples. Example questions to ask youth:

- What key points have you learned?
- How is this life skill important to you?
- Where might this situation occur in the future?
- Why is it important to have plenty of information before making decisions?

**5. Apply** what was learned to a similar or different situation; practice. Example questions to ask youth:

- What did the project mean to your everyday life?
- How can you use these skills or knowledge in different situations?
- In what ways do people help each other learn new things?
- What other situations like this have you experienced before?

Source: Deidrick, J., 2005 MN 4-H Curriculum Committee.

# DIY FITBALL: A FUN FITNESS ACTIVITY

By Kayla Colgrove, Extension Educator in Lancaster County

Families who are active together, get healthy together. Children need 60 minutes of physical activity per day while adults should aim for 150 minutes per week. The most important thing to remember is to make physical activity fun!

To help get everyone moving and sitting less, play this fun fitness activity, called FitBall. It is easy to play since it is similar to the hot potato game and uses little equipment. The person holding the ball when the music stops chooses a fitness activity for all to participate. All ages will enjoy playing this fitness activity!

## Make Your Own FitBall

### Supplies

- Beach ball, approximately 12 inch
- Permanent marker
- List of fitness activities for beach ball

### Directions

1. Air up beach ball.
2. Using a permanent marker, write 3–4 fitness activities per color panel on a beach ball. Modify or change activities as needed, depending on the age of the participants. For younger children, use activities such as jump like a frog, hop like a bunny or walk like a penguin. Here is a list of activities you could use for each panel of the beach ball:

#### Yellow Panel

- 5 Squats
- 10 Toes touches
- 10 Arm circles (backward)

#### Orange Panel

- Run in place for 10 counts
- 5 Push-ups
- Stork stand (hold each leg for 5 counts)
- 5 Side-to-side jumps

#### Green Panel

- 5 Jumping jacks
- 10 Sit-ups
- Butterfly sit (hold for 10 counts)

#### White Panel

- Straddle sit (left, right, center for 5 counts each)
- 10 Lunges (alternating legs)
- 10 Shoulder rolls (forward 5 times & backward 5 times)

#### Red Panel

- 10 Arm circles (forward)
- Side arm stretch (hold each arm for 5 counts)
- 5 Forward and backward jumps

#### Blue Panel

- 5 Jumps to the sky
- Hop on 1 foot (5 hops per foot)
- Upward arm stretch (hold for 10 counts)



Kayla Colgrove, Neb. Extension in Lanc. Co.

## HOW TO PLAY FITBALL

### Supplies

- DIY FitBall (see instructions in the yellow box)
- Music on a device
- Speakers to play the music
- DJ – A person in charge of starting/stopping the music during the game.

### Directions

1. Participants arrange themselves in a circle.
2. The DJ starts the music and participants will hand or toss the beach ball from one person to the next while the music is playing.
3. When the music stops, the person holding the beach ball picks the activity closest to his or her right thumb for the group to perform. Make sure everyone has the appropriate space before starting the activity.
4. Return to your group circle and continue playing the game as time allows.

### Additional Tips

- If an exercise is chosen that has already been done during that activity, the participant can select the closest exercise that has not been completed.
- Participants will be tempted to hit the ball like playing volleyball and may cause the activity to become louder due to everyone getting excited.

Source: <https://food.unl.edu/free-resources/newsletters/family-fun-run/diy-fitball-fun-fitness-activity>



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

By Kayla Colgrove, MS, RDN, ACSM-CPT, Extension Educator in Lancaster Co.

April 6 is fresh tomato day! Tomatoes can be eaten raw or cooked, and made into sauces. To celebrate this day, make this simple salad recipe.

### TOMATO CUCUMBER SALAD

(Makes 12 servings)

- 4 large tomatoes, gently rubbed under cold running water, cubed**
- 1 large cucumber, scrubbed with clean vegetable brush under running water, chopped**
- 1 cup red onion, scrubbed with clean vegetable brush under running water, chopped**
- 1 cup green pepper, scrubbed with clean vegetable brush under running water, chopped**
- 1/3 cup fresh parsley, gently rubbed under cold running water, chopped**
- 1/3 cup apple cider vinegar**
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil**
- 2 garlic cloves, minced**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper**
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar**



1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, cucumber, onion, green pepper and parsley.
3. In a small bowl, combine vinegar, oil, garlic, salt, pepper and sugar.
4. Pour vinegar mixture over vegetables. Mix well.
5. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

Nutrition Information per Serving (1/12 of recipe): Calories 30, Total Fat 1.5g, Saturated Fat 0.4g, Cholesterol 0mg, Sodium 105mg, Total Carbohydrates 5g, Fiber 1g, Total Sugars 3g, Protein 1g, Vitamin A 6%, Vitamin C 35%, Calcium 2%, Iron 4%

Source: Nebraska Extension Nutrition Education Program

# Get Ready to Control Pine Tip Blight

By Sarah Browning, Extension Educator in Lancaster County

Browning and death of branch tips is quite common in older pines. Such damage is often due to Diplodia Tip Blight (also known as Sphaeropsis tip blight). Infection kills current-year shoots and eventually may kill whole branches. This disease, caused by a fungus, becomes increasingly more common and destructive as trees age, although young trees can be affected too. Austrian pine is the most severely affected of the pines, but Ponderosa and Mugo pines are also susceptible.

## Symptoms

The most conspicuous symptoms of Diplodia tip blight are stunted new shoots with short, brown needles still partially encased in their sheath. Infected shoots are quickly killed and may be located throughout the entire tree, although damage is, generally, first evident in the lower branches. The severity of damage may vary considerably throughout the tree, with some branches that have been infected several years in a row dying back completely. After two or three successive years of infection, treetops may also be extensively damaged. Repeated infections reduce growth, deform trees and ultimately kill them.

Small, black, pimple-like structures develop at the base of infected needles

and on the backside of pine cone scales. These structures produce additional fungal spores that can re-infect the tree.



Death of new pine shoots, also called "candles," are a symptom used to identify Diplodia tip blight. (Inset photo) Very serious Diplodia infection can result in death of entire branches.

Photos by Sarah Browning

## Pests Causing Similar Symptoms

Diplodia tip blight can be confused with damage from pine tip moths; however, pine tip moth damage can be distinguished by the presence of larvae or tunnels found when the affected shoot is slit open. It should also not be confused with pine wilt, a disease caused by trunk-dwelling nematodes, which is killing many pines across Nebraska. Pine wilt primarily affects Scotch pine trees and kills the entire tree within 2 or 3 months.

## Control

New shoots are most susceptible during a two-week period starting at bud break through mid-June.

Infections are worse under wet spring conditions, which promotes disease infection.

Two applications of fungicide are recommended. The proper growth stage for applications usually falls during the third week in April and a second application in the first week of May for eastern Nebraska. Applications should be made as buds at the tips of the branches begin to open, with a second application 7–10 days later. A third application may be beneficial in trees heavily infected, or if wet spring conditions persist into early June. For homeowners, Bordeaux mixture, liquid copper, Cleary's 3336 (thiophanate-methyl) or propiconazole (Banner MAXX) are effective in treating this disease. Read and follow all label directions carefully before application.

Prune out dead branches to reduce disease pressure.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- **Diseases of Evergreen Trees**, <http://nfs.unl.edu/documents/foresthalth/diseasesevergreen.pdf>
- **Sphaeropsis Tip Blight of Pine**, <https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g1845.pdf>

# 2021 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR

## Calamint, *Calamintha nepeta* subsp. *nepeta*

Like a cloud of confetti, tiny white flowers, sometimes with pale blue, appear from early summer to fall. Undemanding and dependable, calamint provides the perfect companion for other summer bloomers and foliage plants. This full-sun perennial has a low-mounding or bushy habit, ideal for the front of the border in the landscape bed.

This plant is durable and pest-free.



Calamint, *Calamintha nepeta* subsp. *nepeta*

Stonehouse Nursery

Calamint benefits bees and other pollinators by flowering throughout the summer and the aromatic foliage is deer-resistant. *Calamintha nepeta* subsp. *nepeta* is a favorite low-growing component of self-sustaining gardens.

This is a low-maintenance deciduous perennial and will tolerate drought once established. It can be cut back lightly, if desired, to create neater habit or remove spent blooming stems.

Source: Perennial Plant Association

## GARDEN GUIDE THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

By Mary Jane Frogge, Extension Associate in Lancaster County

The last Friday in April is National Arbor Day. Plant a tree or support an organization which plants trees.

Prune spring blooming shrubs such as forsythia and spirea after they have completed flowering.

Consider planting native perennials that are beneficial to native pollinators like solitary bees, bumblebees and butterflies. Native plants include coreopsis, coneflower, aster, liatris, goldenrod, pasque flower, butterfly milkweed, pitcher sage, bee balm and purple poppy mallow.

Cut flower stalks back to the ground on daffodils, hyacinths and other spring flowering bulbs as the flowers fade. Do not cut the foliage until it dies naturally. The leaves are necessary to produce strong bulbs capable of reflowering next year.

Measure the rainfall with a rain gauge posted near the garden so you can tell when to water. The garden needs about 1 inch of rain per week from April to September.

Do not add organic matter to the soil when planting trees. It does not help the plant become established and it may create conditions that encourage the roots to stay inside the planting hole instead of spreading to surrounding soil. Do dig a large planting hole, but fill it with the original soil removed from it.

Do not restrict yourself to buying plants in bloom. Petunias that bloom in the pack are often rootbound or overgrown and after planting will actually be set back and cease to bloom for about a month. Plants without blossoms will actually bloom sooner and will grow better as well.

To extend the blooming period of gladiolus, plant early, middle and late-season selections each week until the middle of June. Choose a sunny location and plant the corms 4–6 inches deep and 6–8 inches apart.

Seed bare spots in your fescue or bluegrass lawn.

Put a birdhouse in the garden to attract insect-eating friends.

# Naturally Occurring Elements in Groundwater

## Part 2 of a Series – Iron and Manganese

By *Becky Schuerman*,  
*Extension Domestic Water/  
Wastewater Associate*

There are naturally occurring elements and minerals within Nebraska's geology, and with that, it is not uncommon to find them in Nebraska's groundwater. Calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese, fluoride, arsenic and uranium are among the elements found in Nebraska.

This month, the spotlight series continues with iron and manganese.

### Iron & Manganese

Iron and manganese can be a nuisance in a private well system. They are similar metals that cause taste, appearance and staining problems at concentrations as low as 0.3 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) or parts per million (ppm) to plumbing fixtures, porcelain, dishes, glassware and laundry.

The minerals can give water a metallic and/or bitter taste and can have an undesirable effect on the taste/color of food prepared with it. They may react with the tannins in coffee, tea and some alcoholic beverages affecting both appearance and taste. They are also known for scale layer build up and clogging issues within water pipes and plumbing fixtures, e.g. hot water heaters, pressure tanks and water softeners.

Of the two, iron is found more frequently in groundwater, though manganese is often found with iron. Iron in drinking water is not considered a health hazard. Iron and manganese bacteria are found in the soil and shallow aquifers. The bacteria are not known to present a health risk, but they do form a reddish-brown (iron) or brownish-black (manganese) slime-like residue as they feed on the iron and manganese in

the water. This slime is often found in plumbing fixtures, toilet tanks, wash machines and other water using appliances. Another common indicator that the iron and manganese bacteria exist, is a foul odor (similar to a rotten egg smell). The odor is a byproduct of the bacteria feeding on the iron and/or manganese. If either the slime or odor are noticed, water tests should be conducted. The use of chlorine or alkaline builders (such as sodium and carbonate) to kill bacteria may intensify staining because it causes the dissolved minerals to precipitate out of solution.

### Health Effects

At high concentrations, manganese can be a health hazard. Infant formula containing soy and rice cereal should not be made with water above  $300\mu\text{g/L}$  or ppb in manganese due to the content

of manganese already present in the formula or cereal. Older children and adults who drink water that is above  $1,000\mu\text{g/L}$  or ppb in manganese for many years may experience adverse health effects to their nervous system. These effects may include behavioral changes, slow and/or clumsy movements or learning problems.

### Treatment

As with any filtration system, one should know their water quality analysis results and research the manufacturer's specifications of the treatment units being considered. For providing safe drinking water, point of use (POU) devices such as reverse osmosis (RO), distillation and carbon filtration are all good options to remove dissolved manganese, and often iron. To service the whole house, a point of entry (POE) device is a better choice.

Common POE devices for private water supplies include ion exchange water softener, oxidizing filters and aeration (pressure type) followed by filtration. All of these treatment options have their advantages and limitations, thus making treatment sometimes challenging. Knowing the form and concentration of iron and manganese in your raw water, the nuisance issues and researching the effectiveness of treatment units and frequency/cost of maintenance are all consideration factors in making a best treatment decision.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information about iron and manganese and the types of treatment, see Nebraska Extension's NebGuides at <https://water.unl.edu/article/drinking-water/nebguides>.

# No Bull! Examine Your Sires' Breeding Soundness

By *Connor Biehler*, *Beef Systems Extension Educator*

Profitability of cow-calf operations begins with high conception rates. Modern technologies such as artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization increase pregnancy rates when administered correctly. However, many commercial producers still utilize herd or clean-up bulls. This means conception rates are dependent on the bull as much as the cow — emphasizing the importance of making sure sires productively increase early-season conception rates.

Higher percentages of calves conceived in the early

portion of breeding season produces greater pounds at weaning, generating greater income when the calf crop is marketed. The best way to test a bull's productivity is through Breeding Soundness Exams (BSE).

BSE should be conducted by your veterinarian 60–75 days prior to bull turn-out. Conducting the test during this period allows ample time to replace unsound bulls or retest any questionable bulls prior to breeding. A BSE is a snapshot in time and liable to change. After a long, cold winter, like the one experienced throughout the Midwest this past year, bulls might have experienced damage



Troy Walz, NE Ext. in Custer Co.

to their external sex organs and should be tested even if they were tested in the fall.

A BSE begins with a physical examination to determine soundness of feet and legs, examining external and accessory sex organs and evaluating the motility (movement) and morphology (shape) of sperm cells under a microscope. The objective

is to identify problematic bulls that fail to meet the minimum standard. Generally, 75% of bulls tested meet requirements. This procedure does not evaluate a bull's breeding behavior. Instead, BSE informs producers he is biologically equipped to cover cows and does not examine sexual behavioral traits such as libido, mating ability and social adaptability with other bulls in mating environment. These behaviors should be observed during breeding season.

When testing, make sure to allocate proper time. BSEs are time-consuming and rushing this process increases frustration and margin of error.

Make sure slide examination of semen can be conducted indoors. Otherwise, cold weather may damage sperm motility and morphology. Testing for infectious diseases such as trichomoniasis is not routinely included in BSE. Visit with your local vet to see if testing for diseases is recommended.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on planning for breeding season, reach Connor Biehler at his office 402-424-8007 or his cell 402-413-8557. For more information on Nebraska Beef Extension, follow his twitter page @BigRedBeefTalk

# Inspiring Rich Conversations Through Questions

By Sarah Roberts and Jackie Steffen, Learning Child Extension Educators

Questions are powerful tools and they encourage children to think at a higher level. The types of questions you ask young children can affect the quality of your conversation with them.

Some questions only elicit rote answers and, therefore, will not spark a meaningful conversation or connection. Others encourage thought-provoking conversations and ideas.

Having intentional and meaningful conversations with young children is critical to providing an atmosphere of emotional security. Engaging with and listening to children help them to feel valued and respected. They learn to feel safe talking with you and sharing thoughts and feelings that may be otherwise difficult to discuss.

## Here Are Some Ways to Inspire Rich Conversations

- Try to ask more open-ended questions. Open-ended questions are questions that cannot be answered with one word. Instead of asking, "How was your day?" consider rephrasing and saying, "Tell me about the favorite parts of your day."
- Distractions are all around us. Take time to fully engage with young children and practice active listening in a one-on-one environment. That means removing electronics and getting down on



their level. Giving children your full attention demonstrates that you respect them and what they have to say.

- Make conversations a habit. The time of day that works best is different for everyone. Some might be able to connect deeply on the "to and from" school commutes, others at bedtime or maybe around the table. Take notice of when your child feels the most comfortable opening up to you.
- Do your homework. If your child is in school and you have access to daily announcements, lesson plans or newsletters, use that information to help spark conversations. Children can fail to mention exciting events unintentionally. They may be surprised with some pieces of information that you know about their day.
- Finally, remember that conversations are a two-way street. If you ask too many questions, children can feel like they are being drilled. Do not just ask questions; open up and talk about YOUR day. Being authentic and modeling good communication with other adults in their school or home will encourage children to join in on conversations.

Asking higher-level ques-

tions takes practice and time. Think about what information you want to share with your child and what you would like to know from them. Be genuine. If it is tough to talk to them, don't worry. It is important to start practicing conversation skills, especially when children are young. Have fun and keep a sense of humor and wonder.

Children will follow your lead.

## Here Are a Few Open-Ended Questions to Get You Started

- If you were the family chef, what would you make today for breakfast (lunch, dinner)? Why?
- If you could do anything today, what would it be?
- What was your favorite part about the holidays this year?
- This year has been hard for lots of people. Is there anything positive you experienced? What things do you wish you could change?
- If you could ask me anything (teachers or parents), what would it be?

References: "Big Questions for Young Minds: Extending Children's Thinking" by Janis Strasser and Lisa Mufson Bresson

Peer Reviewed by Leanne Manning and Lynn DeVries, Extension Educators, The Learning Child

### FOR MORE IDEAS

To learn more about starting conversations and asking higher-level questions, read "High Level Questions for High Level Thinking," <https://go.unl.edu/c0n9>, April 1, 2020 authored by LaDonna Werth.

# Become a Community Scientist

By Kait Chapman, Extension Educator in Lancaster County

Insect season is just around the corner! There are many opportunities to help contribute to research on Nebraska's insects and their relatives through community science projects.

## Lincoln City Nature Challenge — Nebraska Game & Parks

April 30–May 9

[www.outdoornebraska.gov/citynaturechallenge](http://www.outdoornebraska.gov/citynaturechallenge)



Organized on a global scale by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the California Academy of Sciences, the City Nature Challenge is an annual friendly competition among cities across the globe to find and document plants, fish, insects and wildlife over a four-day period. Snap a picture of the wildlife you see in Lancaster County and upload it during the observation period to have your observation counted towards Lincoln's total.

## Tick Tag Go — UNL

<http://ticktaggo.unl.edu>

With new tick species being identified in the state, records of tick presence are critical to understanding which species



are found where. University of Nebraska Lincoln's (UNL) Tick Tag Go is a community-powered effort to establish baseline data on tick distributions in Nebraska and relies on passive surveillance — the collection of ticks you come across in your daily routine and activities. Submit your tick photos and data for identification.

## Nebraska Bumble Bee Atlas — Xerces Society

[www.nebraskabumblebeeatlas.org](http://www.nebraskabumblebeeatlas.org)



A statewide survey effort aimed to track and conserve Nebraska's native bumble bees using catch-and-release methods. Participating in the Atlas is a great opportunity for anyone looking to take an action in pollinator conservation, and can be done safely outdoors. Virtual workshops are held in May to prepare volunteers with an understanding of bumble bee biology and identification skills before the survey season begins in June. New volunteers welcome!



## HEART OF 4-H VOLUNTEER AWARD

### James Blake

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce James Blake of Lincoln as winner of the April "Heart of 4-H Award" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

He has gone above and beyond his duties as Director of Strategic Initiatives and Focus Programs at Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) to help with 4-H school enrichment programs. For seven years, he has worked with Lancaster County 4-H staff to coordinate the delivery of these programs for LPS.

"Through my unique role in LPS overseeing K-12 science curriculum from 2014-2020, I have worked closely with 4-H as part of my day job," James says. "Examples in elementary curriculum: Lancaster County Embryology 4-H school enrichment program, Garbology and Earth Wellness Festival. With high school, we have the potential to partner with 4-H as we design the Early College and Career STEM program at Northeast opening fall of 2022. I appreciate the hands-on experience that 4-H brings to LPS students. When I go out and observe the 4-H staff presenting to elementary students, they always bring with them a component of discovery and curiosity."

Lancaster County 4-H thanks Blake for donating his time and talents. People like him are indeed the heart of 4-H!



## 4-H Announcements FOR 4-H'ERS AND VOLUNTEERS

See the 4-H e-newsletter at <https://go.unl.edu/Lan4Henews> for complete details. The 4-H Youth Development Program is open to all youth ages 5-18 and free to join in Lancaster County. If interested in joining or volunteering, call 402-441-7180.

### 4-H MEMBERS AND LEADERS — PLEASE RE-ENROLL BY APRIL 1!

All 4-H members and volunteers must re-enroll for the 2020-2021 4-H year. New members and fair projects may be updated through June 15. The website to enroll or re-enroll is <https://ne.4honline.com>. **You are strongly encouraged to re-enroll by April 1 or you may miss out on communications such as NEBLINE, email reminders, etc.!**

### VIRTUAL COMPANION ANIMAL CHALLENGE ENTRIES DUE MARCH 29

The Virtual Companion Animal Challenge offers a variety of 4-H companion animal contests that don't require live animals, including demonstration, essay, art, photography, cat trivia and dog trivia. Online entry forms are being used for 2021 and can be found at <https://go.unl.edu/vcac>. Prior to submitting an entry form, save a copy and submit to the Lancaster County Extension office or email a copy to 4-H Assistant Calvin DeVries at [cdevries2@unl.edu](mailto:cdevries2@unl.edu) by March 29 to have entry fees paid by Lancaster County 4-H Council. T-shirts may be ordered at the cost of each participant for \$15. More information is at <https://4h.unl.edu/companion-animal/challenge>.

### HORSEMANSHIP LEVEL TESTINGS, APRIL 6 & 20

The first 2021 horsemanship advancement level testing will be held on Tuesday, April 6 in the evening at the Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds. Anyone wishing to be tested must sign up by March 30. Contact Kate Pulec at [kpulec3@unl.edu](mailto:kpulec3@unl.edu) or 402-441-7180 to sign up. Time slots will be emailed. A second testing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20 in the evening, at the Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds. Sign-up deadline for the April 20 testing is April 13. All other level requirements and paperwork must be completed and handed in to Kate before the riding portion can be done. It is important to note, 4-H'ers need to be testing with their own 4-H projects. In addition, youth testing for level II must have their horses groomed/clipped for show readiness.

### SPECIAL GARDEN AND AGRONOMY PROJECTS

4-H families have the opportunity to participate in the special garden and/or special agronomy projects this year. The Special Garden Project is growing Hakurei Turnip. This vegetable is a white salad turnip. The Special Agronomy Project is Teosinte, a Mexican grass considered to be one of the parent plants of modern corn. Seed packets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the

Extension office, 402-441-7180, to sign up for these special projects. The seed packages are free and one seed packet per project, per family. Seeds will be mailed after April 30.

### KIWANIS KARNIVAL CANCELED

The annual Kiwanis Karnival scheduled for Friday, April 9 has been canceled because of COVID-19.

### LEADER UPDATE TRAINING, APRIL 22

New leaders, experienced leaders, volunteers and parents are invited to attend the 4-H Spring Leader/Volunteer Update Training on Thursday, April 22, 9 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. (you choose which time to participate) at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Meeting will focus on NEW 4-H curriculum, static exhibits, opportunities for 4-H members and more. Learn about fair entry, contests and important Super Fair information. Don't miss out on meeting ideas, club tips, door prizes and more! **MUST** preregister by Thursday, April 15 by calling 402-441-7180 or emailing [kristin.geisert@unl.edu](mailto:kristin.geisert@unl.edu).

### SHEEP & MEAT GOAT WEIGH-IN, MAY 11

4-H/FFA market sheep or market meat goat exhibitors planning to participate in the performance class based on rate of gain at the Lancaster County Super Fair must have their lambs and goats weighed on Tuesday, May 11, 6-7 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds - Pavilion 1 (east side). Exhibitors planning on exhibiting market sheep or goats at the Nebraska State Fair must have DNA hair samples collected.

### NEW — LIVESTOCK PARENT/LEADER TRAINING & ID HELP NIGHTS

New this year, two Livestock Parent/Leader Training & Identification Help nights will be held at the same time as the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) face-to-face trainings on Tuesdays, May 13 and June 10 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. While 4-H members are participating in the YQCA training, 4-H leaders, parents and volunteers may receive leader training, share ideas and get assistance from 4-H staff with identification paperwork and online entries.

### LIVESTOCK PREMIUM AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Please talk with your community businesses to get donations for the Lancaster County 4-H/FFA Livestock Premium Auction. The success of the auction is dependent on 4-H'ers to acquire donations and buyers for the auction to support scholarships for the youth of this county! For more information, call Scott Heinrich, auction committee chair, at 402-480-0695.

## Watch Chicks Hatch on EGG Cam

<http://go.unl.edu/eggcam>



### UPCOMING DATES

Eggs set in incubator: April 6

Day 7 candling: April 13, 1:30 p.m.

Day 14 candling: April 20, 1:30 p.m.

Hatch date: April 26-27

# 4-H Achievement Celebration

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County and 4-H Council presented the Lancaster County 4-H Achievement Virtual Celebration on Tuesday, Feb. 23. The theme was “Shine On 4-H’ers!” The light of accomplishments by 4-H members, clubs and leaders in 2020 were spotlighted! The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners proclaimed Feb. 23 as “4-H Achievement Day.” For a complete list of award recipients, archived video of the presentation and link to photos on Flickr, go to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/achievement>.



## DIAMOND CLOVER

*The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program is a statewide program which encourages 4-H members to engage in a variety of projects and activities. At the beginning of the 4-H year, youth choose goals from a provided list, and at the end of the 4-H year, complete a report which documents their accomplishments.*

**Level 1 – Amethyst:** Logan Barnard, Madelyn Barnard, Monica Bauman, Tenley Bauman, Helayna DeBuhr, Anna Fousek, Vedkaelle Jean Baptiste, Dayton Jons, Meredith Marsh, Evan Mittan-DeBuhr, Mason Moscrip, Brooklynn Nelsen, Grant Oliver, Amorita Payne, Alexa Smith, Emily Smith, Gabriella Smith, Katy Weaver, Gianna Wesely

**Level 2 – Aquamarine:** Morgan Roof, Emmy Sheldon, Reagan Tonkin, Kaily Wesely

**Level 3 – Ruby:** Vyvian Alstrom, Dailee Guthrie, Vanessa Peterson, Micah Pracheil, Susannah Schulte, Linsey Sheldon

**Level 4 – Sapphire:** Andrew Frain, Sarah Lange, Kamryn Wanser

**Level 5 – Emerald:** Mindy Bartels, Clare Bauman, Celia Faith, Kylie Hansen, Hannah Thomson

**Level 6 – Diamond:** Nathaniel Gabel

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

*Presented to 4-H’ers who have completed the most hours of community service.*

**Age 14 and over:** Jonathan Cook, Thomas Cook, Aleyna Cuttlers, Abigail Kreifels, Madelyn Kreifels, Mischa Lunquist, Christina Xu

**Age 13 and under:** Khloe Cuttlers, Andrew Frain, Nettie Lunquist, Brooklynn Nelsen, Amorita Payne, Alexa Smith, Reagan Tonkin, Kamryn Wanser, Lily Woolledge



## NEBRASKA 4-H ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*The Nebraska 4-H Annual Achievement Award is a record of a 4-H member’s annual achievements in 4-H, including accomplishments, leadership experiences, community service and career exploration.*

**Completed a Junior application:** Noah Babcock, Samuel Babcock, Khloe Cuttlers, Adam Gabel, Ethan Gabel, Morgan Gabel, Sarah Lange, Micah Pracheil, Linsey Sheldon, Alexa Smith, Kamryn Wanser

**Completed a Senior application:** Clare Bauman, Aleyna Cuttlers, Kylie Hansen, Madelyn Kreifels

## 4-H CLUBS OF EXCELLENCE

*Nebraska 4-H Clubs of Excellence have met criteria outlined by the State 4-H office.*

**Clever Clovers, Explorers, Fantastic 4, Five Star 4-H’ers, Fusion 4-H’ers, Horticulture 4-H Club, Joe’s Clover Knights, Lancaster Leaders, Little Green Giants, NE Equestrian, Rabbits R Us**

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Mark Hurt



## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

*Awarded on behalf of the American Youth Foundation to youth ages 15–18 who strive to achieve their personal best and make a positive difference in their schools, youth groups, 4-H clubs and communities.*

**Samuel Babcock, Mindy Bartels, Celia Faith, Clara Johnson, Allison Walbrecht**



## OUTSTANDING 4-H MEMBER

Nathaniel Gabel

## OUTSTANDING 4-H CLUBS

*The Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club presents Outstanding 4-H Club Awards to the top 4-H clubs participating in the Lancaster County Super Fair. Clubs receive points based on all members’ total fair exhibit and contest placings.*

**LITTLE GREEN GIANTS** of Lincoln is the winner of Category I (5–10 members) and winner of the Wayne C. Farmer trophy as overall Outstanding 4-H Club.

**FANTASTIC 4** of Lincoln is the winner of Category II (11–20 members).

**JOE’S CLOVER KNIGHTS** of the Lincoln area is the winner of Category III (21 or more members).

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

**LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL — \$700:** John Boesen, Emmi Dearthmont, Nathaniel Gabel, Ella Hendricksen, Abigail Kreifels, Madelyn Kreifels, Sophie Polk, Sydney Schnase, David Swotek

**4-H TEEN COUNCIL — \$300:** John Boesen, Allyson Korus, Abigail Kreifels, Madelyn Kreifels, David Swotek

**LINCOLN CENTER KIWANIS — \$1,000:** Nathaniel Gabel

**DICK FLEMING LEADERSHIP & COMMUNICATION — \$250:** Nathaniel Gabel

**Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County**  
 & Lancaster Extension Education Center Conference Facilities  
**444 Cherrycreek Road, Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528**  
**402-441-7180 • lancaster.unl.edu**

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## NEBLINE

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## GROBigRed Virtual Learning Series

Nebraska Extension started a GROBigRed Virtual Learning Series last year and the 12 programs are archived at <https://byf.unl.edu/grobigr-red-virtual-learning-series>. The series is returning in 2021! Stay up-to-date on planned programs by following @GROBigRed on Facebook or @GROBigRedUNL on Twitter. Upcoming free Zoom webinars:

- Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m. **Basic Garden Management**
- Saturday, March 27, 11 a.m. **Early Season Cool Crops**
- Saturday, April 10, 10 a.m. **Container Vegetable Gardening**
- Saturday, April 10, 11 a.m. **Raised Beds**



# EXTENSION CALENDAR

All events will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, unless otherwise noted.

## March

- 27 **4-H Furniture Painting Workshop**..... 9 a.m.
- 27 **GROBigRed Virtual Learning — Basic Garden Management**..... 10 a.m.
- 27 **GROBigRed Virtual Learning — Early Season Cool Crops**..... 11 a.m.
- 27 **4-H Horse Stampede, UNL East Campus - Animal Science Complex**
- 29 **Lancaster County 4-H Deadline for Virtual Companion Animal Challenge Entries**
- 30 **Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training** .....8:30 a.m.

## April

- 6 **Commercial/Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator Initial Training** .....8:30 a.m.
- 6 **4-H Council Meeting**..... 6 p.m.
- 6 **4-H Horsemanship Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds**
- 8 **Commercial/Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training** .....8:30 a.m.
- 9 **Extension Board Meeting**..... 8 a.m.
- 9 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training — ZOOM — Wheat/Alfalfa**... 6 p.m.
- 10 **GROBigRed Virtual Learning — Container Vegetable Gardening**. 10 a.m.
- 10 **GROBigRed Virtual Learning — Raised Beds**..... 11 a.m.
- 11 **4-H Teen Council Meeting** ..... 3 p.m.
- 20 **4-H Horsemanship Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds**
- 20 **Runza Night for Lancaster County 4-H at 33rd & Hwy 2**..... 5–8 p.m.
- 22 **Pesticide Applicator Nebraska Department of Agriculture "Appointment Only" Testing Session** .....9 a.m.–2 p.m.
- 22 **4-H Leader Trainings**..... 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

## Runza Night for 4-H, April 20

Support 4-H by eating at Runza on 33rd and Pioneers on Tuesday, April 20 from 5–8 p.m. Simply mention 4-H and Lancaster County 4-H Council will receive 15% of the proceeds. 4-H Council helps support 4-H programs, activities and scholarships.

## Ag Youth Institute Deadline is April 15

The Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute is a five-day program for current high school juniors and seniors to learn about agricultural career opportunities. NAYI will be held July 12–16 at UNL East Campus. Applications are at <https://nda.nebraska.gov/nayi> and must be submitted online by April 15.

## Big Red Summer Academic Camps

Big Red Summer Academic Camps are residential, career exploration camps held at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. They are open to all youth grades 9th/10th–12th, including recent high school graduates. This year's dates are June 13–18. Registration deadline is May 28. Early bird tuition rates end April 5. Regular tuition rates end May 7.

During the week-long camps, participants will work with university faculty to explore the topic of their particular camp, like engineering, filmmaking, digital media or agriculture. Topics and costs vary, so visit <https://4h.unl.edu/big-red-camps> for more information. Limited scholarships are available.

## Dressage Schooling Show, May 1

The Spring Fling Dressage Schooling Show will be held on Saturday, May 1, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds – Pavilion 3. Open to all ages to benefit the 4-H horse program. Entries are due April 17. Show flyer at <https://go.unl.edu/springdressage>.

## 4-H Summer Camps

Nebraska State 4-H Camp near Halsey will offer several week-long overnight camps June–August open to all youth ages 8–18 (need not be enrolled in 4-H). Charter bus transportation options will also be offered select weeks from UNL East Campus in Lincoln. 4-H camp brochure now available at <https://4h.unl.edu/camps>.