



4-H at Super Fair Helps Youth Become Beyond Ready

The 2025 Lancaster County Super Fair was held July 31–Aug. 9 at the Sandhills Global Event Center. The fair is an opportunity for 4-H & FFA youth to showcase projects and skills they’ve worked on throughout the year. 4-H fair experiences help youth become “beyond ready” for their life and career. At this year’s Super Fair, 549 4-H & FFA exhibitors entered 4,765 exhibits (including static exhibits, Clover Kids, animals and contest entries). Lancaster County 4-H thanks all the volunteers and sponsors who make 4-H youth learning experiences possible!



The Super Fair features the largest county 4-H static exhibit display in Nebraska. This year, 374 4-H’ers entered 2,446 static exhibits. On judging day, youth can talk to judges about their projects (pictured is a youth interview judging her 4-H Member Scrapbook).



Clover Kids are 4-H’ers ages 5–7. This age group participates non-competitively in static exhibits, Show & Tell (pictured), animal showmanship and Fashion Show modeling.



4-H & FFA livestock shows are a vital part of Nebraska’s agriculture industry, helping grow the next generation of livestock producers. Pictured is Beef Junior Showmanship.



See video how 4-H at fair helps youth at go.unl.edu/fair-beyond-ready



The 4-H Table Setting contest is a fun way to learn how to set a table, plan a menu with healthy foods and give a short presentation to a judge.



Lancaster County has the largest 4-H county fair horse show in the state, with 41 events spanning 5 days. Horses are an important part of Nebraska’s agriculture industry. Pictured is English Dressage.



4-H small animal shows, such as poultry, rabbits, cats, dogs and household pets, are an opportunity for urban and rural youth to experience raising and showing animals. Pictured is judging of Rhode Island Red Bantams.

What's Popping?

By Natalie Sehi, Extension Educator for UNL's Nutrition & Health Services

Popcorn is a favorite snack for many families and comes in a few different colors, including red, blue, yellow and white. It is easy to eat while playing cards or board games. Most people know popcorn is a favorite snack at sporting events and movies.

What makes popcorn a great snack? It is a whole grain, which means it contains the germ, endosperm, and pericarp (also known as the hull) and it is low in calories. Air popped popcorn has 30 calories per cup. Oil-popped popcorn has 35 calories per cup. It also can be flavored with different herbs and spices to fit your taste, or mixed with dried fruit, nuts and cereal for a quick trail mix. To keep popcorn as a healthy snack, be careful when adding salt and butter, as they will add sodium, fat and calories.

Fun Facts About Popcorn:

- According to the USDA, Nebraska and Indiana grow most of the popcorn.
- Nebraska produces an estimated 250 million pounds of popcorn per year — more than any other state.
- Americans eat around 14 billion quarts of popcorn every year.
- Popcorn can pop up to three feet in the air.
- If you made a trail of popcorn from New York City to Los Angeles, you would need more than 352,028,160 popped kernels.

Popcorn is Not Just for Eating

Check out the following ideas for other ways to use popcorn.

- **Stringing Popcorn:** These can be hung outside for birds to eat or hung on your Christmas tree.
- **Popcorn Air Hockey:** Use a straw to blow the kernels back and forth, or your hands as paddles to “volley” the kernel back and forth 20 times without letting it fall.
- **Popcorn Relay Race:** In teams, use spoons to transport popcorn back and forth.
- **Popcorn Basketball:** Flick a piece of popcorn into the basket (muffin tins, small cups or your own mouth).

Source: The Popcorn Board, <https://www.popcorn.org>.

This article was peer-reviewed and updated in 2025.



RECIPES OF THE MONTH

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

October is National Popcorn Month, making it the perfect time to enjoy fun and easy popcorn recipes. Check out these tasty, kid-and adult-friendly snacks that are great for gatherings, work breaks or after-school treats.

FISH BAIT SNACK MIX

(Yield: 6 Servings)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 2 cups popcorn | 1-3/4 cups non-sweetened oat cereal |
| 1 cup pretzel sticks | 1 cup small fish-shaped crackers |
| 1/4 cup raisins | |

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Mix all ingredients together in a medium bowl.
3. Store in a tightly covered container.

Nutrition Information: Serving Size (1 cup); Calories 140; Total Fat 3g; Saturated Fat 0.5g; Cholesterol 0mg; Sodium 250mg; Total Carbohydrates 26g; Fiber 0g, includes 0g Added Sugars; Protein 3g; Calcium 4%; Iron 15%; Potassium 2%



Photo by Cami Wells, Nutrition Education Program

KICKED-UP POPCORN

(Yield: 3 servings)

Popcorn (air-popped, microwave, etc.)

Topping Options: 2 teaspoons of one of the following (taco seasoning, flavored gelatin, Parmesan cheese, cinnamon-sugar or herbs such as rosemary or oregano)

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Prepare popcorn either in an air popper, in a microwave according to package directions or on top of the stove. Measure 6 cups of popped popcorn.
3. Let popcorn cool a little and then add one of the toppings of your choice.
4. Shake the popcorn in a bag or bowl to coat the popcorn. Popcorn can be sprayed with cooking spray to help the topping stick. Enjoy!

Notes: Nutrition analysis used air-popped popcorn and taco seasoning.

Nutrition Information: Serving Size (2 cups); Calories 60; Total Fat 0.5g; Saturated Fat 0g; Cholesterol 0mg; Sodium 50mg; Total Carbohydrates 13g; Fiber 2g, includes 0g Added Sugars; Protein 2g; Calcium 0%; Iron 4%; Potassium 2%



CINNAMON CRUNCH SNACK MIX

(Yield: 20 servings)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6 cups of popped popcorn | 1/2 of a large box of animal crackers (about 6 ounces) |
| 1 (13 ounce) box of whole grain cinnamon-flavored square cereal | 1/2 cup dried cranberries |
| 1/2 cup of raisins | |

First wash hands with water and soap, then combine all ingredients. Store in an airtight container.

Nutrition Information: Serving Size (1 cup); Calories 150; Total Fat 3g; Saturated Fat 1g; Cholesterol 5mg; Sodium 140mg; Total Carbohydrates 29g, includes 5g Added Sugars; Fiber 3g Protein 3g; Calcium 6%; Iron 35%; Potassium 2%

All recipes used Nutrition Software: Esha Food Processor

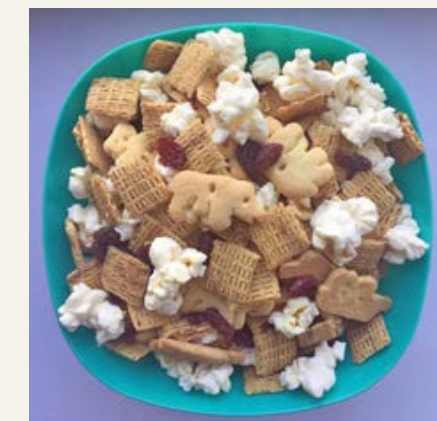


Photo by Cami Wells, Nutrition Education Program

Are Your Trees Ready for the Next Storm?

By Rachel Anderson, Extension Educator in Lancaster County

Droughts, floods, heat waves, thunderstorms, tornadoes, wildfires, blizzards, cold snaps and lightning strikes are examples of Great Plains weather which can reshape landscapes. Lancaster County trees are no stranger to such events, having faced extreme weather once or twice a month since 2015.

While storms play an important ecological role in many grassland and woodland habitats, the associated damage and dieback can cause problems where we live. Trees located near roads, structures and power lines especially deserve our concern because of risks to safety and property. Luckily, there are things we can do to help trees grow more resilient and weather-ready. Follow these 10 best practices to help your trees stand up to storms while providing their many benefits for years to come.

1. It is critical to prune trees correctly when they're young (4–20 years old) to prevent major limb breakage and other problems later. Refer to <https://treesaregood.org> for tips on developing a strong, sturdy branch structure as your trees mature.
2. Growing a tree in a mulched area, rather than in the lawn, is often incredibly beneficial to its overall health at any age. Maintain at least a six-foot diameter ring of hardwood mulch 3–5 inches deep all the way around the tree, keeping it a few inches away from the trunk.
3. Protect trees from damage by lawn mowers and trimmers, as well as from rabbits, squirrels, deer, etc. It only takes one time for a young or thin-barked trunk to suffer serious permanent injury, so stake, cage or wrap appropriately from the start.
4. Refrain from any soil compaction or construction activities within the root zone of your trees. Earthwork, including cutting away soil or adding it, as well as driving or parking vehicles, should be avoided anywhere underneath a tree's canopy.
5. Consider planting new trees next to existing trees where you have room, since trees in groups are more likely to come through a storm intact than lone specimens. Group trees in a



Photo by Brian Dieterman

Storms with wind speeds reaching 91 miles per hour brought down large tree limbs in Lincoln on August 9, 2025.

Underplant with shrubs, flowers, bulbs or groundcovers as desired.

6. Select trees with dense wood and strong branching that are less susceptible to breakage — such as Kentucky coffeetree, white oak or persimmon — when planting near structures, leaving at least 15 feet of clearance. Consider slow growers over very fast-growing trees.
7. Do not extensively prune larger trees just to “thin” them out or “open” up their canopy. Unnecessary thinning is a common malpractice on larger trees that weakens them and can increase likelihood of whole tree failure.
8. If a tree was planted too deep or is being strangled by one of its own roots, it has a worse chance of surviving a storm. Watch for these common mistakes at planting time, whether you are doing it yourself or hiring out. The trunk flare should be completely exposed above ground, and any circling roots should be cut or redirected outward before filling the hole.
9. Identify species like willow, cottonwood, silver maple, ornamental pear and honeylocust that are more prone to damage from storms and develop a pruning plan for these trees. A tree care professional could be of help.
10. Monitor your trees regularly for signs of decay as well as for co-dominant leaders, included bark or acute branch angles. Address issues as you see them.



GARDEN GUIDE THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

By Mary Jane Frogge, Extension Associate in Lancaster County

Plant spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, tulips, snowdrops and crocus in October.

Fall watering is important for trees and shrubs. Continue to water until the soil freezes.

Remove leaves from lawn to reduce lawn problems. Compost or shred and use them for mulch.

Fall is an excellent time for taking soil samples in your lawn and garden. Soil tests will measure the pH of the soil, organic matter content and the levels of some of the major elements required for plant growth, such as phosphorus and potassium.

Cut down stems and foliage of herbaceous perennials after two or three hard frosts and when leaves begin to brown.

Christmas cactus needs special care now to get its beautiful flowers this December. Buds will form at 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit or if the plant is exposed to at least 13 hours of complete darkness each night.

After several hard frosts add mulch to your perennial flower garden. A one-inch layer of straw or chopped leaves will help conserve soil moisture and protect the root system.

When deciding on new trees or shrubs to plant around your home, remember to select varieties that will fit the location when they are at their mature height. This will greatly reduce pruning and other maintenance in the future.

Make a note of any particularly productive or unsatisfactory varieties of vegetables you planted this year. Such information can be very useful when planning next year's garden.

Remove any diseased or insect-infested plant material from your garden, it may harbor overwintering stages of disease or insect pests. If you leave this plant material in your garden, you are leaving diseases and insects which will begin to reproduce again next spring and add to next year's pest problem.

October is a good time to control broadleaf weeds in the lawn, such as white clover, dandelion and ground ivy.

GRO Big Red Virtual Learning Series

Join the experts from Nebraska Extension to learn and ask questions!

10/8 — Unusual Small Fruits • Ian Peterson

Via Zoom on Wednesdays 12–1 p.m.

Register at
<https://hles.unl.edu/grobigred>

Sponsored
by Nebraska
Extension

Composting Demonstration

Do you want to know how to turn your yard and garden waste into beneficial compost? Or do you want a refresher? Nebraska Extension will present a composting demonstration on Saturday, Sept. 27, starting at 10 a.m. at Pioneers Park Nature Center's backyard composting demonstration area across the street from the Nature Center (look for the Extension banner). Extension Master Gardeners will teach how to construct a compost pile and show you several types of structures that can be built or purchased for composting. You'll learn how to achieve a proper carbon to nitrogen ratio, or “green” vs. “brown” materials, as well as basic troubleshooting. One random participant will win either a composting thermometer or a composting bin. The cost of this program is covered by Nebraska Extension.

Promoting Language Development in Young Children

By Hayley Jackson, Extension Educator in Lancaster County

Language development in young children is a process that lays the foundation for their future communication skills, cognitive abilities and overall success in life. Parents, caregivers and educators play a crucial role in supporting this development. Let's look at some effective strategies and tips adults can use to help children flourish in their language skills.

1. **Talking and Listening** —

From the moment a child is born, they take in the world around them. It is never too early to start talking to your child! Engage in regular conversations with your child. Talk to them about their day, ask them questions and even simple things such as narrating what you

are doing are helpful for children. Exposing children to lots of language and a variety of words is a great way to foster their language development. It is also important to actively listen to what they have to say when they speak to you. As a caregiver, you can help to expand the words your child is using in back-and-forth communication. For example, a young child may come up to you and say "horse!" while holding a blue plastic horse in their hand. To expand their language, you could respond, "Yes, you're right! You are holding a blue horse. The horse says neigh!" This back-and-forth exchange started with your child's words and then expanded to include more words as



well as information about the subject they're speaking about.

2. **Reading Aloud** —

Reading books with your child is another excellent, fun way you can help support their language development. Find developmentally appropriate books

and read to your child on a regular basis. This can be included in some of your daily routines as well, such as reading a few favorite books during bedtime. While reading the books, ask your child questions and listen to their response. Point out different aspects of the pictures in the books and talk to your child about what they are seeing. Another helpful tip for book reading is to use your finger to follow along while you read the words. This helps children understand that the words you are saying correspond to the text written on the page. Book reading is a fun and easy way to help children's language while also enjoying time together.

3. **Pretend Play** —

Playing with your child in an imaginative and creative way is not just fun, but it can also help give children the opportunity to use their language skills. Play with them when they are pretending to play house or pretending to be a superhero and encourage them to describe what they are doing. You can facilitate their play by expanding on their ideas and giving them new vocabulary words. For example, if they are playing superhero, you could ask them who the villain is and explain that the word "villain" is another name for a bad guy.

Talking, listening, reading aloud and pretend play are all fun and easy ways parents and caregivers can help build their children's language skills while getting to spend quality time together.

Tip Sheet for Harvest 2025

By John Nelson, Extension Educator in Lancaster County

Increased disease pressure, especially in corn, may present some challenges during the 2025 harvest and beyond. Tamra Jackson-Ziems, UNL Extension Plant Pathologist has suggested conducting "push or pinch" tests in corn fields that have experienced disease or other crop stresses during the growing season. Diseased or stressed corn plants can develop stalk rot diseases or have general standability issues, and it is highly recommended that growers scout fields before harvest and prioritize those fields that could have problems.

The "push test" consists

of pushing at least 100 corn plants to arm's length (about 30 degrees from vertical.) If plants bend below the ear and don't snap back upright, they have a greater chance of lodging at, or prior to, harvest if there are high wind events or heavy rainfall. If more than 10% of plants fail the test, you may consider harvesting early or harvesting the highest-risk fields first.

Some remember the dry soybean conundrum we faced during the 2024 harvest. We all heard reports of soybeans being harvested well below 10% moisture levels, which can make a bad year for profitability even worse by reducing the number of bushels going across the scale. Jenny Brhel, York

County Water & Cropping Systems Extension Educator, just wrote an article on the benefits of beginning harvest before soybeans reach the elevator standard of 13% (see <https://jenreesources.com/2025/09/07/harvest-soybean-moisture>). In this article, Jenny makes the case for trying to harvest soybeans just before they reach the

13% moisture target, even if it means slower harvest speeds and paying some dockage at the elevator. The math works out such that harvesting beans at 13.8% and paying the ~2.5% dock at the elevator, is much more profitable than harvesting at 9% moisture (which was fairly common in 2024). In this scenario, harvesting at

the higher moisture will improve net returns by more than \$13/acre in beans yielding 75 bushels/acre.

Above all, slow down, be aware of your surroundings and have a safe and prosperous harvest.



Photo by dvande - stock.adobe.com

Rogers Memorial Farm Field Day, Sept. 25

Nebraska Extension invites anyone interested in cover crops and soil health to attend the annual Rogers Memorial Farm Field Day on Thursday, Sept. 25, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at 18630 Adams St. There is no cost to attend, and lunch is provided thanks to support from USDA-NRCS and Nebraska Extension. Register at <https://go.unl.edu/rmf2025> by Sept. 24.

Highlights include:

- Touring the farm's long-term (40+ years) no-till and cover crop plots
- Cover crop mixtures plot demonstrations
- Cover crops effects on soil health data
- Soil health assessment demonstration
- Double cropping strategies and water use

For more information, contact Katja Koehler-Cole at 402-624-8042.



HEART OF 4-H VOLUNTEER AWARD

Recognizing Outstanding Volunteer Service

Rachel Wells

is receiving Lancaster County 4-H's October "Heart of 4-H Award." She has been a volunteer instructor at 4-H Clover College for several years, teaching workshops such as Outdoor Planters & Pavers and Mosaic Seed Art. She has also been a judge in fiber arts and home design at the Lancaster County Super Fair for nearly 5 years. In the summer of 2019,



Rachel was a Lancaster County 4-H intern.

"I've enjoyed seeing youth's creativity," said Rachel. "I enjoy volunteering with 4-H because it allows me to support youth as they learn and grow, see the fun projects they've created and help them reflect on how their work was done and what they want to do in the future — all while contributing to a program that strengthens our community."

Homeschool Youth Science Day

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County will present a Homeschool Youth Science Day on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. OR 1–4 p.m. at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. Open to all homeschooled youth, grades K–6th (most lessons are geared towards 3rd–5th graders). Youth will focus on lessons involving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities. Fee is \$10 per youth. Please pay in advance by either calling 402-441-7180 with a credit/debit card (small fee) or mailing/delivering a check or cash to Lancaster County Extension, 444 Cherrycreek Rd, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528. Register online at <https://go.unl.edu/homeschool-science-25> by Monday, Oct. 27. Please choose either the morning session, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., or afternoon session, 1–4 p.m., on the registration form. There is a set limit of 60 youth per session.



Last year's Homeschool Youth Science Day included a "Power of Wind" station.



Join 4-H to Become Beyond Ready

Ready to lead. Ready to serve. Ready to build. Ready for life.



WHY 4-H?

- Lancaster County 4-H is open to all youth ages 5–18
- Choose from over 50 projects to "learn by doing"
- Explore interests and career "sparks"
- Participate in leadership and community service activities
- Have fun while making new friends!
- Many 4-H'ers showcase their projects at the Lancaster County Super Fair!



GET INVOLVED!

- Help start a new 4-H club
- Join an Existing 4-H club
- Be an independent member

**NO FEES TO JOIN
Lancaster County 4-H**

SPECIAL EVENT

LAUNCH YOUR 4-H JOURNEY

Sunday, Oct. 5 • 5pm

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County,
444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln



This is a great opportunity to explore your child(ren)'s 4-H journey! 4-H staff will present an overview of 4-H and its many opportunities. Several 4-H members will share their projects (including STEM, art, rabbits and more). Adults can learn ways they can help youth grow.

Free hot dogs and refreshments! Fun door prizes!



Call 402-441-7180 or go to
lancaster.unl.edu/join4h



4-H Announcements

FOR ENROLLED 4-H'ERS OR 4-H VOLUNTEERS

The 4-H e-newsletter at <https://go.unl.edu/lan4hnews> has up-to-date information about upcoming 4-H opportunities.



AFTER SUPER FAIR MEETINGS & ONLINE FEEDBACK

All Lancaster County 4-H & FFA members, families and volunteers are invited to the following 4-H After Super Fair Planning Meetings and Feedback opportunities. This is an opportunity to discuss changes and generate ideas for the 2026 Lancaster County Super Fair and 4-H program areas.

In-Person Feedback Opportunity (horse meeting was Sept. 11):

- Livestock: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m. at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Rd, Suite A, Lincoln.

Online Feedback Opportunities Due by Oct. 1:

- Static exhibits & contests: <https://go.unl.edu/static-feedback-25>
- Rabbit: <https://go.unl.edu/rabbit-feedback-25>
- Cat: <https://go.unl.edu/cat-feedback-25>
- Dog: <https://go.unl.edu/dog-feedback-25>
- Household Pets: <https://go.unl.edu/household-pets-feedback-25>

HORSE AWARDS NIGHT, OCT. 23

The annual Lancaster County 4-H Horse Awards Night will be Thursday, Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. Awards presentation includes Incentive Awards, Horsemanship Levels, All-Around Awards, Herdsmanship, Top Judging buckles and ribbons, as well as a few surprise awards! Come help celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of the 2025 Lancaster County 4-H Equestrians!

LEADER & VOLUNTEER COLLABORATION, OCT. 29

All 4-H leaders and volunteers helping with clubs and independent members are encouraged to get the inside scoop at the Fall 4-H Leader & Volunteer Collaboration on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m. via Zoom or in-person at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. The theme will be "Purple Ribbon Kids" and will focus on 4-H club organization, new information for the upcoming 4-H year, opportunities for your 4-H members and more. This is a great time to connect and get ideas from other parents and leaders. You MUST register by Friday, Oct. 17 by calling Kristin Geisert at 402-441-7180 or emailing kristin.geisert@unl.edu. Please indicate if you will be attending in-person or via Zoom, and provide your T-shirt size.

PAPER BASKET WORKSHOP, NOV. 15

4-H youth ages 8 and up are invited to attend a Paper Basket Workshop to engineer and construct a woven paper basket using recycled newspapers and wire on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9–11 a.m. at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. No cost to attend. Learn paper weaving techniques to make a home décor basket that may be exhibited at the Super Fair. Adults are encouraged to attend to help, especially if their child is 8 or 9 years old. Register by Monday, Nov. 10 by calling Kristin Geisert at 402-441-7180 or emailing kristin.geisert@unl.edu. Bring a needle nose wire cutter for cutting wire. All other supplies will be provided.

Lancaster County Volunteers Receive Statewide 4-H Awards!



(L-R) Jennifer Smith and Anna Barr

Two Lancaster County 4-H volunteers were recognized with Nebraska 4-H state-level awards in 2025. Lancaster County 4-H recognized these volunteers with an informal presentation at the Lancaster County Super Fair. Nebraska 4-H recognized all the statewide award winners at a formal ceremony at the Nebraska State Fair.

OUTSTANDING ADULT VOLUNTEER (1 of 8 individuals)

Jennifer Smith has been an exceptional volunteer in Lancaster County for two decades. She has led the Fantastic 4 4-H Club since 2005, which has been repeatedly recognized as a Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence and Lancaster County Outstanding 4-H Club. Jennifer has led the club in numerous community service projects such as doing activities with senior residents and donating items to Fresh Start Home. Jennifer said, "I truly love helping youth discover ways to give back to their communities — guiding them through and around barriers to empower them to follow their hearts and make their dreams a reality." At the Lancaster County Super Fair, she is a superintendent for the 4-H Table Setting Contest, Outdoor Adventures static exhibits and Dog Show. She has also taught several 4-H workshops such as speech and first aid.

EMERGING ADULT VOLUNTEER (1 of 8 individuals)

Anna Barr stepped in as a replacement leader for the Super Shamrocks 4-H club in 2022, and has led club members in projects such as making vegetable seed ID boards and homemade lava lamps. They recently made pet-sized fleece tie blankets that club members could donate to a humane society. At the Lancaster County Super Fair, Anna is a superintendent of the 4-H Photography area. She says, "My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer is seeing club member progress over the years and improving their knowledge and communication skills. It's also interesting to see what sparks their interest and come up with projects based on that."

Super Fair 2026 Dates

Save the dates! The 2026 Lancaster County Super Fair is scheduled for Thursday, July 30–Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Sandhills Global Event Center. 4-H & FFA exhibits and events will be Thursday, July 30–Sunday, Aug. 2.

4-H Livestock Scholarship Recipient



Connor Paitz

The Lancaster County 4-H Livestock Boosters awards up to three \$500 college scholarships each year, which are presented at the Lancaster County Super Fair 4-H & FFA Purple Ribbon Market Livestock Premium Auction. This year, a scholarship was awarded to Connor Paitz. A portion of the proceeds from the auction funds these scholarships.

"We are proud to recognize Connor's hard work and dedication, and we wish him the very best as he continues his education and invests in the future of our community," said Julia Plugge, President of the Livestock Auction Committee.

State 4-H Horse Expo Top Results



Lyra Krutak, Western Dressage
Champion



Liz Boshart, Western Dressage
Reserve Champion



Kayla Isaacs, Advanced Western
Horsemanship Champion



Evelynn Smith, Intermediate
Ranch Pleasure Reserve Champion



Scarlett Battles, Senior Ranch
Riding Reserve Champion



MacKenzie McCoy, 3-5 Year Old Halter
Geldings Champion



Xavyer Bourek, English Dressage
Champion



Ava Schepers, Miniature/Shetland Pony
Mares Champion



Paige Schepers, Hunter Hack
Champion

The 2025 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Expo was held July 12-16 in Grand Island. There were 188 exhibitors, 315 horses, 1,673 entries representing 42 Nebraska Counties. Here are the Lancaster County 4-H purple ribbon and top 10 winners. Complete results are at <http://4h.unl.edu/horse/state-expo>.

Ch=Champion; Res = Reserve

1-2 YEAR OLD HALTER MARES: Paige Schepers (Res Ch - blue), Lily Wood (3rd - blue)

11+ YEAR OLD HALTER MARES: Amelia Proffitt (4th - blue), Scarlett Battles (7th - blue)

3-5 YEAR OLD HALTER MARES: MacKenzie McCoy (Ch), Clairra Heinzle (4th - blue)

3-5 YEAR OLD HALTER GELDINGS: MacKenzie McCoy (Ch)

MINIATURE/SHETLAND PONY

HALTER GELDINGS: Ava Schepers (Ch), Paige Schepers (Res Ch), Thaxton Bourek (3rd), Colin Schepers (5th - blue)

MINIATURE/SHETLAND PONY

HALTER MARES: Ava Schepers (Ch), Paige Schepers (Res Ch), Colin Schepers (3rd - blue)

SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP: Scarlett Battles (8th - blue), Lily Wood (10th - blue)

INTERMEDIATE SHOWMANSHIP: MacKenzie McCoy (4th), Xavyer Bourek

ENGLISH DRESSAGE: Xavyer Bourek (Ch)

WESTERN DRESSAGE: Lyra Krutak (Ch), Liz Boshart (Res Ch), Lena Barnes (3rd), Addison Gropp (5th), Thaxton Bourek, Amelia Proffitt

HUNTER HACK: Paige Schepers (Ch), Ava Schepers (Res Ch)

ADVANCED HUNT SEAT EQUITATION: Paige Schepers (Res Ch - blue)

SENIOR HUNT SEAT EQUITATION:

Taeva Taylor (3rd), Kayla Isaacs (4th), Scarlett Battles (5th)

JUNIOR HUNT SEAT EQUITATION:

Xavyer Bourek (8th)

ADVANCED HUNTER UNDER

SADDLE: Paige Schepers (Ch)

SENIOR HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:

Scarlett Battles (5th), Lyra Krutak

JUNIOR HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:

Xavyer Bourek (Ch)

ADVANCED WESTERN

HORSEMANSHIP: Kayla Isaacs (Ch), Lyra Krutak (4th)

SENIOR WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP:

Kiara Eppenbach (5th), Lyra Krutak

INTERMEDIATE WESTERN

HORSEMANSHIP: Xavyer Bourek (Ch), Evelynn Smith (6th)

ADVANCED WESTERN PLEASURE: Ava Schepers (4th - blue)

SENIOR WESTERN PLEASURE: Kiara Eppenbach (7th), Liz Boshart (9th)

SENIOR RANCH PLEASURE: Addison Gropp (9th), Scarlett Battles, Clairra Heinzle, Lyra Krutak

INTERMEDIATE RANCH PLEASURE:

Evelynn Smith (Res Ch)

SENIOR RANCH RIDING:

Scarlett Battles (Res Ch)

JUNIOR RANCH RIDING:

Evelynn Smith (Res Ch)

SENIOR REINING:

Kayla Isaacs (3rd), Scarlett Battles (7th - blue)

JUNIOR REINING:

Evelynn Smith (4th)

SENIOR TRAIL:

Scarlett Battles (3rd - blue)

WORKING RANCH HORSE:

Scarlett Battles (3rd)

SENIOR BARREL RACING:

Shea Frink (8th)

JUNIOR BARREL RACING:

Nina Roberts (4th)

SENIOR POLE BENDING:

Shea Frink (4th)

JUNIOR POLE BENDING:

Nina Roberts (4th)



Super Fair 4-H & FFA Top Results

4-H & FFA complete results, photos and videos are online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair>



Top Creative Photography: Ari Hamblin (powdered dye on ice as she dyed fabric – read more at <https://go.unl.edu/ice-dye>)



Top Cake or Pie: Lauren Johnson (lemon chiffon cake)



Fashion Show Top 7: (L-R) Emily Bauman, Monica Bauman, Tenley Bauman, Harper Cordes, Dayton Jons (Res Grand Ch & Alice Doane Memorial Wool Award), Piper Pillard and Alexa Smith (Grand Ch) – read more at <https://go.unl.edu/fash-show-25>



Visual Arts Top 4: Avery Stohs (colored pencil drawing of a palomino horse)

Ch=Champion; Res = Reserve

Top Static Exhibits

GENERAL AREAS

Poster: Harper Cordes
Quilt Ch: Reese Dell
Quilt Res Ch: Tayler Docter
Dog: Tenley Bauman

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH

Premiere Science: Ethan Gabel
Premiere Science: Elizabeth Hilkemann
Aerospace/Rockets/Drones: Jaxon Harvey
Engineering: Henry Fendrick
Woodworking: Cora Vander Woude

SAFETY

Safety: Emily Crawford

FOOD & NUTRITION

Cookie Exhibit: Charlotte Houska
Quick Bread: Cally Sullivan
Yeast Exhibit: Meredith Marsh
Cake or Pie: Lauren Johnson
Food Preservation: Morgan Gabel

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Human Development: Tenley Bauman

HOME DESIGN & RESTORATION

Top 3: Jaxon Vlasnik
Top 3: Meredith Marsh
Top 3: Avery Vlasnik
Leta Guenther Bremer Memorial Needle Arts
Award: Piper Bauman

VISUAL ARTS

Top 4: Gracie Mittan-DeBuhr
Top 4: Avery Stohs
Top 4: Korben Payne
Top 4: Shea Frink

HERITAGE

Heritage: Brigham Moore

PHOTOGRAPHY

Level 1: Leo Fendrick
Level 2: Brigham Moore
Level 3: Tenley Bauman
Favorite Photo: Nash Greder
Creative Photography: Ari Hamblin
Black & White Photograph: Helayna DeBuhr
Portrait: Avery Stohs

CLOTHING

STEAM Clothing 1: Clara Jordan
STEAM Clothing 2: Addison Rocole
STEAM Clothing 3: Dayton Jons
Beyond the Needle: Emily Bauman
Accessory: Tenley Bauman
Fiber Arts - Crocheting: Lauren Johnson
Fiber Arts - Knitting: Catherine Friesen
Shopping in Style: Lundy Dell
Alice Doane Memorial Wool Award: Dayton Jons

HORTICULTURE

Vegetable: Khloe Cuttlers
Herb: Jaxon Vlasnik
Annual: Morgan Gee
Perennial: Eleanor Senft
Rose: Gracie Mittan-DeBuhr
Specimen Plant: Aurora Wyman

CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY

Conservation & Wildlife: Kyler Plugge
Forestry: Elizabeth Hilkemann

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Outdoor Adventures: Alexa Smith

Top Contest Awards

ILLUSTRATED PRESENTATIONS

Sr Ch: Parker Hansen
Int Ch: Evelyn May
Int Res Ch: Alexa Smith
Team Int Ch: Payzleigh Belew & Grace Tetzlaff

SPEECH & PSA

Speech Sr Ch: Emma Thomson
Speech Sr Res Ch: Parker Hansen
Speech Int Ch: Alexa Smith
Speech Int Res Ch: Grace Tetzlaff
Speech Jr Ch: Cora Pracheil
Speech Jr Res Ch: Ezequiel Crilly
PSA Sr Ch: Callia Thompson
PSA Sr Res Ch: Emma Thomson
PSA Int Ch: Alexa Smith
PSA Int Res Ch: Braxton Thompson
PSA Jr Ch: Gracie Mittan-DeBuhr

LIFE CHALLENGE

Sr Ch: Emily Bauman
Sr Res Ch: Monica Bauman
Jr Ch: Isaac May
Jr Res Ch: Sophie Huenink

FASHION SHOW

Grand Ch: Alexa Smith
Res Grand Ch: Dayton Jons
Top 7: Emily Bauman
Top 7: Monica Bauman
Top 7: Tenley Bauman
Top 7: Harper Cordes
Top 7: Piper Pillard
Shopping in Style Top 3: Gracie Mittan-DeBuhr
Shopping in Style Top 3: Alexa Smith
Shopping in Style Top 3: Emma Thomson

STEAM Beyond the Needle: Piper Pillard
Make One/Buy One Level 1: Clara Jordan
Make One/Buy One Levels 2 & 3: Alexa Smith
STEAM Clothing 1: Cora Pracheil
STEAM Clothing 2: Alexa Smith
Upcycled Garment: Dayton Jons
Apron: Sofia Hunt
Garment(s) Made for Others: David Bauman

PLANT SCIENCE

Horticulture: Kaily Wesely
Tree ID: Elizabeth Hilkemann
Grass & Weed ID: Elizabeth Hilkemann

TABLE SETTING

Picnic Sr: Parker Hansen
Picnic Int: Alexa Smith
Picnic Jr: Liliana Bianchini Huebner
Casual Sr: Vanessa Peterson
Casual Int: Isaac May
Casual Jr: Murray Bettenhausen
Formal Sr: Tenley Bauman
Formal Int: Gwendolyn Friesen
Formal Jr: Piper Bauman
Holiday Int: David Bauman
Holiday Jr: Jesse May

DOG VIRTUAL TRIVIA

Sr Ch: Reese Dell
Int Ch: Adelaide Metcalf
Jr Ch: Brigham Moore

LIVESTOCK ELITE SHOWMANSHIP

1st Place: Lexi McCaffree
2nd Place: Khloe Cuttlers
3rd Place: TJ Mueller
4th Place: Austen Davis
5th Place: Ezra Kubicek

LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Sr Ch: Connor Paitz
Sr Res Ch: Josie Johnson
Int Ch: Derek Bruss
Int Res Ch: Kyler Plugge
Jr Ch: Micah Mueller
Jr Res Ch: Maddox Bruss



Market Swine Grand Champion: Izek Lockee; Market Sheep Grand Champion: Michael Lockee III. These brothers won back-to-back championships with these awards in 2024 and 2025! Read more at <https://go.unl.edu/lockee-champs>



Rabbit All-Around Exhibitor Award: (L-R) Marylynn Rauert (Res Ch), Emma Thomson (Co-Champ) and Carl Traynor (Co-Champ)



Livestock Elite Showmanship: (front L-R) Lexi McCaffree (1st & Sheep Sr Ch), Khloe Cuttlers (2nd & Meat Goat Sr Ch); (back L-R) TJ Mueller (3rd & Beef Sr Ch), Austen Davis (4th & Swine Sr Ch), Ezra Kubicek (5th & Dairy Goat Sr Ch)

Top Animal Awards

BEEF

Showmanship Supreme Ch: TJ Mueller
 Showmanship Sr Ch: TJ Mueller
 Showmanship Int Ch: Kanyon Plugge
 Showmanship Jr Ch: Alyssa Bruss
 Breeding Heifer Supreme Ch: TJ Mueller
 Breeding Heifer Supreme Res Ch: Hadley Reimers
 Feeder Calf Supreme Ch: Hudson Reimers
 Feeder Calf Supreme Res Ch: Maddox Bruss
 Market Animal Supreme Ch: Hannah Chevalier
 Market Heifer Grand Ch: Kanyon Plugge
 Market Heifer Res Grand Ch: Emberlin Johnson
 Market Steer Grand Ch: Hannah Chevalier
 Market Steer Res Grand Ch: Aislyn Applegarth
 Lancaster Born & Raised - Breeding Ch: Kanyon Plugge
 Lancaster Born & Raised - Market Ch: Kanyon Plugge
 Rate of Gain Market Steer Ch: Aislyn Applegarth
 Rate of Gain Market Heifer Ch: Kanyon Plugge

BUCKET CALF

Current-Year Int Ch: Maggie Zimmerman

SHEEP

Showmanship Sr Ch: Lexi McCaffree
 Showmanship Int Ch: Ashton Wagner
 Showmanship Jr Ch: Steel Lockee
 Market Lamb Grand Ch: Michael Lockee III
 Market Lamb Res Grand Ch: Lexi McCaffree
 Lancaster Born & Raised Market Lamb Ch: Lexi McCaffree
 Lancaster Born & Raised Market Lamb Res Ch: Michael Lockee III
 Breeding Ewe Supreme Ch: Michael Lockee III

SWINE

Showmanship Sr Ch: Austen Davis
 Showmanship Int Ch: Derek Bruss
 Showmanship Jr Ch: Maddox Bruss
 Market Swine Grand Ch: Izek Lockee
 Market Swine Res Grand Ch: Derek Bruss
 Breeding Gilt Ch: Derek Bruss
 Breeding Gilt Res Ch: Maddox Bruss
 Pick-a-Pig Market Swine Grand Ch: Hannah Simpson
 Pick-a-Pig Market Swine Res Grand Ch: Emily Crawford
 Carcass Swine Ch: Norah Bruss
 Carcass Swine Res Ch: Khloe Cuttlers

DAIRY/PYGMY GOAT

Showmanship Sr Ch: Ezra Kubicek
 Showmanship Int Ch: Mary LaPlante
 Showmanship Jr Ch: Zoey Petta
 Best in Show Dairy/Pygmy Goat: Ezra Kubicek
 Res Best in Show Dairy/Pygmy Goat: Taryn Bell

MEAT GOAT

Showmanship Sr Ch: Khloe Cuttlers
 Showmanship Int Ch: MacKenzie McCoy
 Showmanship Jr Ch: Henry Werner
 Market Goat Overall Grand Ch: Khloe Cuttlers
 Market Goat Overall Res Grand Ch: MacKenzie McCoy
 Breeding Goat Overall Ch: Khloe Cuttlers
 Breeding Goat Overall Res Ch: Khloe Cuttlers
 Lancaster Born & Raised Ch: Khloe Cuttlers
 Lancaster Born & Raised Res Ch: MacKenzie McCoy

POULTRY

Showmanship Sr Ch: Marylynn Rauert
 Showmanship Int Ch: Lawrence Rauert
 Showmanship Jr Ch: George Rauert
 Judging Contest Sr Ch: Catherine Polk
 Judging Contest Int Ch: Lathan Huntley
 Judging Contest Jr Ch: Daxton Hamblin
 Quiz Bowl Sr Ch: Kamryn Wanser
 Quiz Bowl Int Ch: Lathan Huntley
 Quiz Bowl Jr Ch: Daxton Hamblin
 Large Fowl Grand Ch: Declan Tschirren
 Bantam Grand Ch: Liam Powers
 Water Fowl Grand Ch: Sophie Huenink
 Best of Show: Sophie Huenink

RABBIT

All-Around Exhibitor Award Co-Champions: Emma Thomson and Carl Traynor
 All-Around Exhibitor Award Res Ch: Marylynn Rauert
 Showmanship Sr Ch: Jocelyn Schmol
 Showmanship Int Ch: Josiah Schmol
 Showmanship Jr Ch: Eliana Schmol
 Commercial Breed - Best 6 Class Ch: Rozlyn Masters
 Commercial Breed - Best 6 Class Res Ch: May Frain
 Fancy Breed - Best 4 Class Ch: Adelaide Metcalf
 Fancy Breed - Best 4 Class Res Ch: Marylynn Rauert
 Judging Contest Sr Ch: Marylynn Rauert
 Judging Contest Int Ch: Alandra Huntley

Judging Contest Jr Ch: Piper Young
 Breed ID Contest Sr Ch: Jocelyn Schmol
 Breed ID Contest Int Co-Ch: Elizabeth Hilkemann and Carl Traynor
 Breed ID Contest Jr Ch: Eliana Schmol
 Breeder's Choice Sr Ch: May Frain
 Breeder's Choice Int Ch: Carl Traynor
 Breeder's Choice Jr Ch: Adeline Brinson
 Quiz Sr Ch: Emma Thomson
 Quiz Int Ch: Elizabeth Hilkemann
 Quiz Jr Ch: Piper Bauman

HOUSEHOLD PETS

Mammal Ch: Rachel Koch
 Mammal Res Ch: Scout Abplanalp
 Non-Mammal Ch: Joseph Wesely
 Non-Mammal Res Ch: Zayne Russell

CAT

Best in Show Ch: Brigham Moore

DOG

Showmanship Trophy Ch: Katie Fisher
 Showmanship Sr Ch: Paige Schepers
 Showmanship Int Ch: Ava Schepers
 Showmanship Beginning Ch: Brigham Moore
 Obedience - Novice Ch: Reese Dell
 Obedience - Beginning A Ch: Brigham Moore
 Obedience - Beginning B Ch: Bella Croghan
 Team Obedience - Level A Ch: Ava Schepers & Paige Schepers
 Agility - Level 1 Pre-Beginning A Ch: Reese Dell
 Agility - Level 1 Pre-Beginning B Ch: Sarah Fisher
 Agility - Level 2 Beginning A Ch: Olivia Jelinek
 Agility - Level 3 Intermediate Ch: Katie Fisher

HORSE

English Showmanship Sr Ch: Ava Smith
 English Showmanship Int Ch: Paige Schepers
 English Showmanship Jr Ch: Ava Schepers
 Hunter Hack Sr Ch: Clairra Heinzle
 Hunter Hack Int Ch: Paige Schepers
 Hunter Hack Jr Ch: Gracie Mittan-DeBuhr
 English Hunter/Saddleseat Ages 4 and Up Grand Ch: Clairra Heinzle
 English Hunter/Saddleseat Ages 4 and Up Res Grand Ch: Elizabeth Funk
 English Hunter/Saddleseat Aged Horse Grand Ch: Corrine Byrne
 English Hunter/Saddleseat Aged Horse Res Grand Ch: Kathryn Weaver
 Miniature Showmanship Int/Sr Ch: Kiara



English Hunter/Saddleseat Aged Horse Grand Ch: Corrine Byrne

Eppenbach
 Miniature Showmanship Jr Ch: Ava Schepers
 Western Showmanship Sr Ch: Kiara Eppenbach
 Western Showmanship Int Ch: Lola Bunz
 Western Showmanship Jr Ch: Madelyn Becker
 Groom and Care Ch: Aurora Norris
 Western Stock Horses Ages 4 and Up Grand Ch: Madelyn Becker
 Western Stock Horses Ages 4 and Up Res Grand Ch: MacKenzie McCoy
 Western Stock Horses Aged Horse Grand Ch: Lola Bunz
 Western Stock Horses Aged Horse Res Grand Ch: Addison Gropp
 Xtreme Versatility Ch: Scarlett Battles
 Ranch Horse Versatility (Ranch Riding) Sr Ch: Scarlett Battles
 Ranch Horse Versatility (Ranch Riding) Int Ch: Mason Raisch
 Ranch Horse Versatility (Ranch Riding) Jr Ch: Ava Schepers

Additional horse awards will be announced at 4-H Horse Awards Night.



State Fair 4-H Top Results

Congratulations to the Lancaster County 4-H'ers who showcased their projects at the Nebraska State Fair! Here are the top results. Complete results are at <http://nebraska4hresults.com>.

Top Awards

Ari Hamblin	Rabbit: Junior Rabbit Showmanship - 3rd Place
Dax Hamblin	Poultry: All Other Standard Breeds: Ameraucana Black Hen - Reserve Champion Poultry: Junior Poultry Showmanship - 4th Place
Elizabeth Hilkemann	Judging Contests: Horticulture: Intermediate - 3rd Place Judging Contests: Insect ID: Intermediate - 3rd Place Judging Contests: Weed & Grass ID: Intermediate - 3rd Place Science & Technology: Premier Science Award
Lathan Huntley	Poultry: Game Bantams: Modern Division: Mod Game Birchen Cockerel - Champion
Olivia Jelinek	Dog: Agility: Level 2 - Reserve Champion
Josie Johnson	Meat Goat: Division I Market Goat - Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Overall Market Goat Sheep: Market Sheep: Hampshire Market Lamb - Reserve Champion and 5th Place Champion Overall Market Lamb
Lauren Johnson	Meat Goat: Division I Market Goat - Reserve Champion and 3rd Place Champion Overall Market Goat
Dayton Jons	Dog: Showmanship: Intermediate - Reserve Champion Dog: Skillathon: Intermediate - Champion
Brigham Moore	Dog: Showmanship: Junior - Reserve Champion Dog: Skillathon: Junior - Reserve Champion
Micah Mueller	Beef: Charolais Breeding Heifer - Champion
Lawrence Rauert	Poultry: Intermediate Poultry Showmanship - 5th Place Rabbit: Intermediate Rabbit Showmanship - 3rd Place
Marylynn Rauert	Rabbit: Senior Rabbit Showmanship - Reserve Champion
Hadley Reimers	Beef: Commercial Breeding Beef: Commercial Breeding Heifer - Reserve Champion
Ava Schepers	Dog: Obedience: Beginning Novice Division A - Champion
Paige Schepers	Dog: Obedience: Beginning Novice Division C - Champion Dog: Showmanship: Senior - Champion
Joseph Wesely	Judging Contests: Horticulture: Junior - 5th Place
Kaily Wesely	Judging Contests: Horticulture: Senior - 3rd Place

Special Recognition

DESIGN GALLERY SELECTIONS

25 Visual Arts, Design Decisions, Clothing or Fashion Show exhibits were selected to be displayed in the 4-H Design Gallery at State Fair.

Dayton Jons STEAM Clothing 3: Pants or Shorts Combination

RAINBOW RIBBON RECOGNITION

Rainbow Recognition awards recognizes unique and outstanding items.

Tenley Bauman	STEAM Clothing 3: Lined or Unlined Jacket
Henry Fendrick	Electricity: Electrical Tool/Supply Kit
Catherine Friesen	Knitting: Level 2: Knitted Clothing
Shea Frink	Visual Art Mediums: Original Watercolor Painting
Adam Gabel	Heritage: Level II: Other Historical Exhibit
Ethan Gabel	Electricity: Electronic Project
Nicole Gee	STEAM Clothing 3: Pants or Shorts Combination
Sophie Huenink	Electricity: Electrical Tool/Supply Kit
Lauren Johnson	Cooking 401: Foam Cake
Dayton Jons	STEAM Clothing 3: Pants or Shorts Combination
Brigham Moore	Photography Unit II: Expression Through Color Display or Print
Meredith Noack	Visual Art Mediums: Original Watercolor Painting
Kyler Plugge	Conservation & Wildlife: Reptile or Amphibian Display
Jocelyn Schmoll	Photography Unit II: Abstract Photography Display or Print
Alexa Smith	Outdoor Adventure: Level 2: Other Camping Items
Avery Stohs	Visual Art Themes: Original Art Inspired by Plants or Animals
Corra Vander Woude	Visual Art Mediums: Original Mixed Media
Kamryn Wanser	Citizenship: i2i: This Is Who I Am Poem

PHOTOGRAPHY SPECIAL SELECTIONS

Selected for display during the next year on UNL East Campus

Gracie Mittan-DeBuhr (Horse in Barn Stalls).....Animal Science Complex

LIVESTOCK ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

At the beginning of the 4-H year, youth plan what to accomplish. At the end of the 4-H year, they report on their completed accomplishments.

Tenley Bauman	Rabbit and Dairy Goat Areas, Senior
May Frain	Rabbit Project Area, Senior
Adelaide Metcalf	Rabbit Project Area, Intermediate

FINAL DRIVE

Top livestock exhibitors were invited to participate in the "Final Drive."

Tenley Bauman	Livestock Achievement
May Frain	Livestock Achievement
Josie Johnson	Market Goat and Market Lamb
Lauren Johnson	Market Goat
Adelaide Metcalf	Livestock Achievement

Purple Ribbons

Emily Bauman —	Fashion Show: Constructed STEAM Clothing 3 Garment • Quilt Quest: Computer Exploration • STEAM Clothing 3: Dress or Formal • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Color Wheel • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Embellished Garment With Original Design • Shopping in Style: Best Buy for Your Buck: Ages 14-18
Monica Bauman —	Fashion Show: Constructed STEAM Clothing 3 Garment • Human Development: Activity With a Younger Child • Shopping in Style: Best Buy for Your Buck: Ages 8-13 • Computers: Computer Application Notebook • Computers: Virtual Platform Presentation
Nicolas Bauman —	Computers: Virtual Platform Presentation
Piper Bauman —	Design Decision: Accessory: Original Needlework/Stitchery • Design Decision: Accessory: Recycled/Upcycled Item for the Home • Visual Art Mediums: Original Single Media Not Listed
Tenley Bauman —	Heritage: Level II: 4-H Member Scrapbook • Leadership and Citizenship: Service Items • Photography Unit III: Advanced Techniques & Lighting Display or Print • ESI: Entrepreneurship Investigation: Sample of an Original Product • Human Development: Health and Physical Development • Human Development: Science • Veterinary Science: Small Animal/Pet Poster, Notebook or Display
Andrea Bettenhausen —	Heritage: Level I: Family Genealogy/History Notebook • Cooking 201: Biscuits or Scones
Ian Bettenhausen —	Safety: General Purpose First Aid Kit
Claire Breuer —	Forestry: Cross Section Display • General Foods: Foods and Nutrition Poster: Scrapbook or Photo Display
Hannah Breuer —	Forestry: Cross Section Display • Wildlife Habitat: Houses • General Foods: Foods and Nutrition Poster: Scrapbook or Photo Display
Reagan Breuer —	Design Decision: Accessory: Original Made from Wood
Charis Carlson —	Cooking 201: Biscuits or Scones
Olivia Clark —	Cooking 401: Candy
Harper Cordes —	Fashion Show: Constructed STEAM Clothing 2 Garment
Emily Crawford —	Quilt Quest: Level I: Quilted Exhibit-Medium
Mia Crawford —	Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Jelled Exhibit
Khloe Cuttlers —	Horticulture: Red Onions
Ruby Dean —	Dog: Showmanship: Senior
Lundy Dell —	Heritage: Level I: 4-H Member Scrapbook • Heritage: Level I: Other Historical Exhibit • Photography Unit II: Creative Composition Display or Print • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Embellished Garment With Original Design • Cooking 201: Baking With Whole Grain • Cooking 201: Biscuits or Scones
Reese Dell —	Heritage: Level II: 4-H Club/County Scrapbook • Heritage: Level II: 4-H Member Scrapbook • Heritage: Level II: Other Historical Exhibit • Heritage: Level II: Special Events Scrapbook • Photography Unit II: Expression Through Color Display or Print • Design Decision: Accessory: 2D • Human Development: Activity With a Younger Child
Bailey Docter —	Quilt Quest: Barn Quilt Created Less than 4x4
Sydney Docter —	Quilt Quest: Barn Quilt Created Less than 4x4
Taylor Docter —	Quilt Quest: Barn Quilt Created Less than 4x4
Roy Egelhoff —	Computers: 3-D Printing: Unique Object
Nora Fish —	Cooking 301: Specialty Bread
Frankie Fendrick —	Cooking 401: Ethnic Food Exhibit
Henry Fendrick —	Electricity: Electrical Tool/Supply Kit
Catherine Friesen —	Knitting: Level 2: Knitted Clothing
Gwendolyn Freisen —	STEAM Clothing 2: Dress
Mary Kerstin Friesen —	Visual Art Themes: Original Art Inspired by Artist's Choice • Visual Art Themes: Original Art Inspired by Plants or Animals
Shea Frink —	Visual Art Mediums: Original Watercolor Painting
Adam Gabel —	Citizenship: i2i: Biography • Heritage: Level II: Other Historical Exhibit • Heritage: Level II: Story or Illustration about a Historical Event • Photography Unit III: Advanced Composition Print • Photography Unit III: Level 3 Portfolio • Human Development: Activity With a Younger Child • Quilt Quest: Barn Quilt Created Less than 4x4 • Outdoor Adventures: Level 3: Journal/Binder • Computers: Virtual Platform Presentation
Ethan Gabel —	Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Fruit Exhibit
Molly Gabel —	Human Development: Activity With a Younger Child
Morgan Gabel —	Heritage: Level II: Special Events Scrapbook • Photography Unit II: Level 2 Portfolio • ESI: Entrepreneurship Investigation: Sample of an Original Product • Safety: Careers in Safety
Morgan Gee —	STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Embellished Garment With Original Design
Nicole Gee —	STEAM Clothing 3: Pants or Shorts Combination
Reagan Gee —	Floriculture: Any Other Annual or Biennial
Crayson Grone —	Heritage: Level I: Heritage Poster or Flat Exhibit
Aaron Grove —	Computers: Produce a Computer Slideshow Presentation
Ethan Grove —	Cooking 201: Coffee Cake • Computers: Produce a Computer Slideshow Presentation
Aleigha Gyhra —	Quilt Quest: Level I: Quilted Exhibit-Medium
Brielle Gyhra —	Human Development: Social Emotional Development



Elizabeth Hilkemann's notebook, "Predicting the Number of Light-Attracted Moths Found on Moth Surveys," earned 1 of 6 Premier Science Awards. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/sci-award-25>



Dayton Jons's vintage-style shirt featuring tulip sleeves, paired with green pants featuring a high-waist was one of 25 exhibits selected for the Design Gallery and earned a Rainbow Recognition award. Read more at <https://go.unl.edu/des-gallery-25>





Lathan Huntley received Champion Modern Game Birchen Cockerel in Poultry



Josie Johnson received Reserve Grand Champion in Market Goat



11 members of the Lancaster County 4-H "4 On The Floor" dog club competed at the State Fair 4-H Dog Show. Pictured are (L-R) Brigham Moore, Ruby Dean, club leader John Croghan, Remington Tate, Reese Dell, Shelby Huenink, Sophie Huenink, Dayton Jons, Olivia Jelinek, Tillie Karmann, Ava Schepers and Paige Schepers. Read more at <https://go.unl.edu/dog-state-fair-25>



Ari Hamblin – Rabbit: Breeding Rabbits: Netherland Dwarf Jr. Doe • Rabbit: Junior Rabbit Showmanship • STEAM Clothing 2: Dress • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Original Designed Fabric: Yardage

Dax Hamblin – Poultry: All Other Standard Breeds: Ameraucana Black Hen • Poultry: Junior Poultry Showmanship • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Embellished Garment With Original Design

Parker Hansen – Heritage: Level I: Heritage Poster or Flat Exhibit • Design Decision: Accessory: Outdoor Living • Human Development: Health and Physical Development • Safety: Safety Scrapbook • Horticulture: Rhubarb

Elizabeth Hilkemann – Judging Contests: Horticulture: Intermediate • Judging Contests: Insect ID: Intermediate • Judging Contests: Tree ID: Intermediate • Judging Contests: Weed and Grass ID: Intermediate • Citizenship: i2i: Biography • Heritage: Level I: Family Traditions Exhibit • Heritage: Level II: Other Historical Exhibit • Photography Unit II: Creative Techniques & Lighting Display or Print • Photography Unit II: Expression Through Color Display or Print • Entomology: Reports or Journals • Forestry: Design Your Own Exhibit • Forestry: Forest Health Display • Forestry: Forest Product Display • Safety: Careers in Safety • Computers: How To STEM Presentation • Computers: Produce a Computer Slideshow Presentation • Energy: Solar as Energy Display • Geospatial: GPS Notebook • Veterinary Science: Small Animal/Pet Poster, Notebook or Display

Rachel Hoffman – Cooking 401: Specialty Pastry

Sophie Huenink – Dog: Rally: Rally 1 • Poultry: Ducks: Bantam Call White Young Male • STEAM Clothing 2: Two-Piece Outfit • Cooking 201: Healthy Baked Product • Electricity: Electrical Tool/Supply Kit

Sofia Hunt – Design Decision: Accessory: Outdoor Living • STEAM Clothing 2: Alter Your Pattern • STEAM Clothing 2: Two-Piece Outfit • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Embellished Garment With Original Design • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Fashion Accessory • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Item (Garment or Non-clothing Item) Constructed from Original Designed Fabric • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Textile Arts Garment or Accessory

Alandra Huntley – Rabbit: Breeding Rabbits: Netherland Dwarf Jr. Buck • Rabbit: Intermediate Rabbit Showmanship • STEAM Clothing 2: Skirt • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Original Designed Fabric: Yardage

Lathan Huntley – Poultry: Game Bantams: Modern Division: Mod Game Birchen Cockerel • Poultry: Game Bantams: Modern Division: Mod Game Birchen Pullet

Mary Kate Ingarcia – Heritage: Level I: Family Traditions Exhibit • Cooking 401: Foam Cake

Olivia Jelinek – Dog: Agility: Level 2 • Dog: Obedience: Beginning Novice Division C

Clara Johnson – Cooking 301: Specialty Rolls

Josie Johnson – Meat Goat: Market Meat Goat: Market Wethers • Sheep: Market Sheep: Hampshire Market Lambs • Cooking 401: Double Crust Fruit Pie

Lauren Johnson – Meat Goat: Market Meat Goat: Market Wethers • Sheep: Market Sheep: Crossbred Market Lambs • Crochet: Level 2: Crocheted Home Design & Restoration Item • Cooking 201: Loaf Quick Bread • Cooking 401: Family Food Tradition • Cooking 401: Foam Cake

Dayton Jons – Dog: Showmanship: Intermediate • Dog: Skillathon: Intermediate • STEAM Clothing 3: Dress or Formal • STEAM Clothing 3: Pants or Shorts Combination • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Embellished Garment With Original Design • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Item (Garment or Non-clothing Item) Constructed from Original Designed Fabric

Michael Lockee III – Sheep: Breeding Sheep: Commercial Meat Breed Ewe Lambs (Born 9/1/2024 and after) • Sheep: Market Sheep: Crossbred Market Lambs • Sheep: Market Sheep: Hampshire Market Lambs

Meredith Marsh – Design Decision: Accessory: Outdoor Living • Cooking 401: Specialty Pastry

Harper McKelevy – Design Decision: Furniture: Recycled/Remade • Quilt Quest: Barn Quilt Created Less than 4x4

Gracie Mittan-DeBuhr – Photography Unit II: Creative Composition Display or Print • Visual Art Mediums: Original Ceramic Pottery

Brigham Moore – Dog: Obedience: Beginning Novice Division A • Dog: Showmanship: Junior • Dog: Skillathon: Junior • Heritage: Level I: Depicting Heritage of Member's Family or Community • Photography Unit II: Expression Through Color Display or Print • Photography Unit II: Level 2 Portfolio • Rockets: Any Skill With Wooden Fins, Painted by Hand/Brush

Isaiah Morse – Heritage: Level I: 4-H Member Scrapbook

Blake Mueller – Beef: Feeder Calf: Feeder Heifer

Micah Mueller – Beef: Charolais Breeding Beef: Charolais Heifer Calved Sept./Oct. 2024

TJ Mueller – Beef: Angus Breeding Beef: Angus Heifer Calved January-April 2025

Emma Mumm – Photography Unit II: Level 2 Portfolio • Computers: Produce a Computer Slideshow Presentation

Brooklynn Nelsen – Design Decision: Accessory: Original Floral Design • Human Development: Activity With a Younger Child

Meredith Noack – Crochet: Level 3: Crocheted Clothing • Visual Art Mediums: Original Watercolor Painting

Carley Parrott – Design Decision: Accessory: 2D

Amorita Payne – Photography Unit II: Abstract Photography Display or Print • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Embellished Garment With Original Design • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Fashion Accessory • Veterinary Science: Small Animal/Pet Poster, Notebook or Display

Piper Pillard – Fashion Show: Constructed STEAM Clothing 3 Garment • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Embellished Garment With Original Design

Reese Pillard – Floriculture: Sedum

Kyler Plugge – Conservation & Wildlife: Reptile or Amphibian Display • Shooting Sports: Shooting Aid or Accessory

Liam Powers – Heritage: Level I: Other Historical Exhibit

Silas Pracheil – Heritage: Level I: Depicting Heritage of Member's Family or Community

Benedict Rauert – Rabbit: Breeding Rabbits: Mini Rex Sr. Doe

George Rauert – Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Pickled Exhibit

Lawrence Rauert – Rabbit: Breeding Rabbits: Mini Rex Sr. Buck • Poultry: Intermediate Poultry Showmanship • Rabbit: Intermediate Rabbit Showmanship

Leo Rauert – Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Pickled Exhibit

Marylynn Rauert – Rabbit: Breeding Rabbits: Mini Rex Sr. Buck • Rabbit: Breeding Rabbits: Mini Rex Sr. Doe • Poultry: Senior Poultry Showmanship • Rabbit: Senior Rabbit Showmanship • Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Pickled Exhibit

Hadley Reimers – Beef: Commercial Breeding Beef: Commercial Breeding Heifer

Hudson Reimers – Beef: Feeder Calf: Feeder Steer

Addison Rocole – Fashion Show: Constructed STEAM Clothing 2 Garment • Heritage Level I: 4-H Member Scrapbook • STEAM Clothing 2: Dress

Amelia Rocole – Heritage Level I: 4-H Member Scrapbook • Visual Art Mediums: Original Watercolor Painting

Charlotte Sanio – Photography Unit III: Advanced Composition Print

Ava Schepers – Dog: Agility: Level 1 • Dog: Obedience: Beginning Novice Division A

Paige Schepers – Dog: Agility: Level 2 • Dog: Obedience: Beginning Novice Division C • Dog: Rally: Rally 1 • Dog: Showmanship: Senior

Eliana Schmoll – Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Pickled Exhibit

Jocelyn Schmoll – Photography Unit II: Abstract Photography Display or Print • Forestry: Leaf Display • Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Fruit Exhibit • Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Jelled Exhibit • Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 3 Jar Jelled Exhibit

Josiah Schmoll – Food Preservation: Unit 2: Drying: Dried Vegetables

Noah Schmoll – Food Preservation: Unit 2: Drying: Fruit Leather • Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Pickled Exhibit

Dalton Shotkoski – Poultry: Game Bantams: Modern Division: Mod Game Birchen Hen

Alexa Smith – Fashion Show: Constructed STEAM Clothing 2 Garment • Fashion Show: Shopping in Style Purchased Outfit and Written Report • Outdoor Adventure: Level 2: Digital Media • Outdoor Adventure: Level 2: Other Camping Items

Avery Stohs – Photography Unit III: Advanced Composition Print • Visual Art Themes: Original Art Inspired by Plants or Animals

Remington Tate – Dog: Agility: Level 1

Gigi Thomas – Conservation & Wildlife: Wildlife Diorama

Emma Thomson – Fashion Show: Shopping in Style Purchased Outfit and Written Report • Rabbit: Breeding Rabbits: Polish Jr. Doe

Isabelle Tonkin – STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Embellished Garment With Original Design

Cora Vander Woude – Woodworking: Woodworking Article • Visual Art Mediums: Original Mixed Media

Avery Vlasnik – Design Decision: Furniture: Outdoor Living • STEAM Clothing Beyond the Needle: Fashion Accessory • Food Preservation: Unit 3: Boiling Canning: 1 Jar Jelled Exhibit • Floriculture: Any Other Perennial • Floriculture: Vinca

Jaxon Vlasnik – Design Decision: Accessory: 3D (String Art, Wreath, Etc.) • Floriculture: Any Other Perennial • Horticulture: Any Other Herb • Horticulture: Garlic

Alessandra Wagner – Dog: Agility: Level 2 • Dog: Obedience: Beginning Novice Division B • Dog: Skillathon: Senior

Olivia Wandzilak – STEAM Clothing 2: Dress

Kamryn Wanser – Citizenship: i2i: This Is Who I Am Poem • 4-H Leadership and Citizenship: Citizenship Game • Design Decision: Accessory: Original Made From Glass • Visual Art Themes: Original Art Inspired by Landscapes

Kathryn Weaver – Heritage: Level I: Special Events Scrapbook • Photography Unit II: Expression Through Color Display or Print

Joseph Wesely – Judging Contests: Horticulture: Junior • Judging Contests: Tree ID: Junior

Kaily Wesely – Judging Contests: Horticulture: Senior

Galen Wilken – Photography Unit II: Creative Composition Display or Print • Visual Art Themes: Original Art Inspired by Plants or Animals

Brooklynn Wolgamott – Photography Unit II: Level 2 Portfolio

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County
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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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EXTENSION CALENDAR

All events held at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, unless otherwise noted.

September

- 23 **After Fair Livestock Meeting** 6 p.m.
25 **Rogers Memorial Farm Field Day**, Rogers Memorial Farm, 18600 Adams St. . . 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
27 **Composting Demonstration**, Pioneers Park's backyard composting demonstration area across the street from the Nature Center 10 a.m.
30 **4-H Council's Alumni Scholarship Deadline**

October

- 5 **Launch Your 4-H Journey** (formerly called 4-H Information Night) 5 p.m.
6–11 **National 4-H Week**
7 **4-H Council Meeting** 6 p.m.
8 **GRO Big Red Virtual Learning Series: Unusual Small Fruits**,
<http://hles.unl.edu/grobigred> 12 p.m.
10 **Extension Board Meeting** 8 a.m.
12 **4-H Teen Council Meeting** 3 p.m.
16 **Pesticide Applicator Neb. Dept. of Ag "Walk-In" Testing Session** 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
23 **4-H Horse Awards Night** 6:30 p.m.
29 **4-H Leader/Volunteer Training** 9 a.m.

EXTENSION NEWS

New Horticulture Educator

Rachel Anderson recently joined Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County as a Horticulture, Landscape and Environmental Systems Extension Educator and will serve Lancaster, York, Seward, Otoe and Cass Counties. Her focus will be working with residents and green industry professionals to find answers to their lawn, tree and garden questions. Her areas of interest include landscape care, plant selection, waterwise gardening and building healthy soil.

Rachel grew up in Omaha and practiced as a landscape architect before joining Extension. She studied Horticulture at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and went on to receive a Master of Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University. Rachel has a diverse background working with plants and people across the Midwest, including at design studios, garden centers, nurseries and greenhouses, arboreta, state and federal agencies, and in higher education.

You can reach Rachel at randerson28@unl.edu or 402-441-7180.



Rachel Anderson

2025 UNL Service Awards

University of Nebraska–Lincoln staff reaching an anniversary year of employment were recently honored for their years of service to the university. The following Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County staff are being recognized:

- **Mary Jane Frogge**, Extension Associate — 35 years
- **Amber Reinkordt**, Office Associate — 15 years
- **Meredith Kuca**, Extension Associate — 10 years
- **Kait Chapman**, Extension Educator — 5 years

Deadline For Extension Board Applications, Nov. 1

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners seeks community members to serve on the Lancaster County Extension Board. Vacancies will be filled with three-year appointments beginning in January 2026. Extension Board members advocate for and assist Extension staff in program areas such as: 4-H youth development; early childhood; horticulture, landscape & environmental systems; food, nutrition & health; and water & cropping systems. The board meets monthly (usually the second Friday of the month at 8 a.m.). Registered Lancaster County voters interested in serving should complete an Extension Board application by Nov. 1. Additional information and an application can be obtained from Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528 or by calling 402-441-7180. Applications are also online at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/extension-board>.