

»» OTOE COUNTY ««

TIPS ON TAP



THANK YOU

Otoe County Families,

As many of you may have heard, I have made the decision to leave my position here at Otoe County Extension. While I am looking forward to going back to my roots in more formal education, it is not without sadness that I say goodbye.

The big three of Nebraska Extension: to strengthen ag & food systems, to inspire Nebraskans & their communities, and to enhance the health & wellbeing of all Nebraskans are ambitions close to my heart. I see those same ambitions in the people of Otoe County.

Otoe County is a place rich with people who want to connect, grow, & serve, and that is evident in the youth of the county. The Otoe County 4-H program is building a generation of problem solvers and change makers. It has been an honor to serve the youth of the county!

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve Otoe County and I look forward to seeing many of you at future community events.

With thanks,

Elizabeth

Leader's Corner

Leaders,

Are you looking to broaden the topics that your club covers at meetings? Check out Clover by 4-H at [4-h.org/clover!](https://4-h.org/clover/)

It's as easy as creating a free account and browsing the dozens of FREE activities available. You can even challenge your officers to teach or lead an activity. Topics range from computer science to gardening and personal finance to cooking - plus more! Many of the lessons offer paper and virtual activities.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions about Clover! I have personally tested many of the lessons and have learned lots in areas like computer science.

Stephanie

Otoe County Sharp Shooter's 4-H Club presents:

OTOE COUNTY 4-H ARCHERY ORIENTATION

Who: This clinic is for Otoe County 4-H members, ages 8-18, newly enrolled in the archery project. Attendance at orientation is optional for 4-H members who participated in 2023/2024. One adult is required per household to assist their 4-H member/s.

What: This clinic will focus on:

- introduction to equipment
- equipment safety checks
- proper shooting demonstration
- range safety & commands

When: March 30, 2025; 6 pm

Where: Kimmel Arena, Syracuse, NE (northwest entrance)

Requirements: Enrolled in Otoe County 4-H & the archery project.

What to bring:

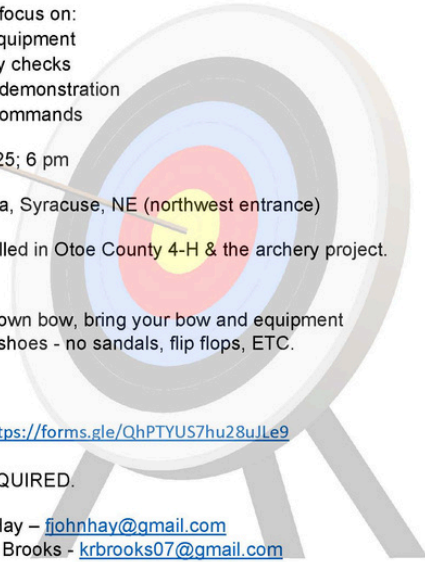
- if you have your own bow, bring your bow and equipment
- wear close-toed shoes - no sandals, flip flops, ETC.

Fee: Free

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/QhPTYUS7hu28uJle9>

Pre-registration is REQUIRED.

Contacts: John Hay – johnhay@gmail.com
Rustin Brooks - kbrooks07@gmail.com

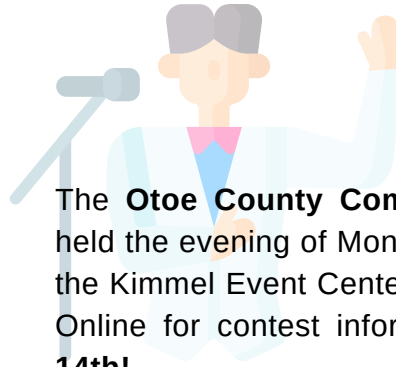


4-H ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!

PLEASE GO TO

[HTTPS://V2.4HONLINE.COM](https://v2.4honline.com)

AND SIGN UP FOR THE NEW YEAR!



The **Otoe County Communication Contest** will be held the evening of Monday, March 24th at 6:00 pm at the Kimmel Event Center. Look for an email from 4-H Online for contest information. **Register by March 14th!**



Livestock Achievement Program

We are excited to announce the fifth year of the Nebraska 4-H Livestock Achievement Program. This additional opportunity for enrolled livestock project youth, is designed to promote all educational aspects of 4-H livestock projects including selection, production, leadership, and exhibition by recognizing youth striving to improve in their livestock project knowledge and leadership.

The program recognizes Members of Excellence across all 4-H livestock project areas, including: beef, sheep, meat goat, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, rabbit, and poultry.

Applications/Sign up are due June 15th through the application form link on the website. Plan and Reports, as well as Project Records will be due August 1st via the completion form on the website.

Youth completing the achievement program and receiving member of excellence recognition in the various species will be recognized during the Parade of Champions, 4-H weekend at the Nebraska State Fair.

Check out more details at:

[Livestock Achievement Program](https://www.livestockachievementprogram.org/) | [Nebraska 4-H](https://www.4hnebraska.org/) ([unl.edu](https://www.unl.edu)).

Otoe County Sharp Shooter's 4-H Club presents:

BB GUN/AIR RIFLE NEW SHOOTER CLINIC

Who: This clinic is for Otoe County 4-H members, ages 8-18, NEWLY enrolled in the air rifle and/or bb gun project area(s) who have not previously participated in our regular season or fair contest. One adult is required per household to assist their 4-H member/s. Space is limited.

What: All youth should have general knowledge of how their bb gun operates before the clinic. This clinic will focus on:

- range safety & commands
- prone, standing, sitting, & kneeling shooting positions
- competition target procedures/rules

When: Sunday, April 13, 2025; 4 p.m.

Where: Kimmel Arena, Syracuse, NE (northwest entrance)

Requirements: Enrolled in Otoe County 4-H & the bb gun or air rifle project areas.

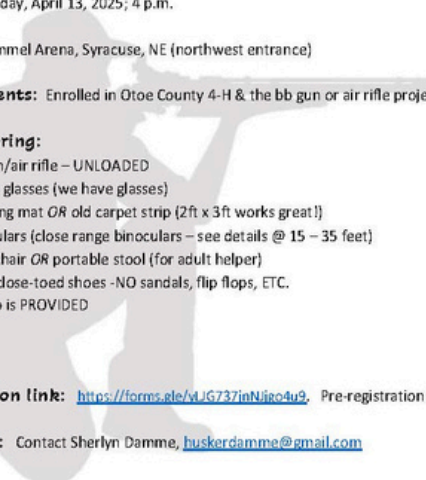
What to bring:

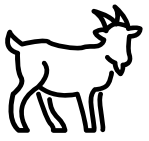
- BB gun/air rifle – UNLOADED
- Safety glasses (we have glasses)
- kneeling mat OR old carpet strip (2ft x 3ft works great!)
- binoculars (close range binoculars – see details @ 15 – 35 feet)
- lawn chair OR portable stool (for adult helper)
- wear close-toed shoes -NO sandals, flip flops, ETC.
- Ammo is PROVIDED

Fee: Free

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/vJG737inNjgo4u9>. Pre-registration is REQUIRED.

Questions: Contact Sherlyn Damme, hskerdamme@gmail.com





Sheep & Goat Weigh-In



Sheep & goat weigh-in will be Saturday, April 26th from 9:00-10:30AM at the OK Pavilion.

The 2025 Otoe County Fair will again include a Market Goat Rate of Gain contest. Animals must participate in the weigh-in to be considered for the Rate of Gain Contest.

YQCA Trainings for Otoe County

3 YQCA Trainings will be held at the Fair Center for youth exhibiting livestock (including rabbits and poultry) at the 2025 Otoe County Fair. If youth are unable to attend the Otoe County Trainings, they may attend a training hosted by another county. Questions? Contact Stephanie at sstephens9@unl.edu or 402-269-2301

- May 14th @ 10 - 11:30 am
- May 27th @ 9:30 - 11 am
- May 27th @ 1:30 - 3 pm

Livestock Tags

Ear tags for all livestock species are available for purchase at the Extension Office.

Beef & swine EID tags are \$3.

Poultry bands are \$.50.

Sheep & goats only need scrapies tags.

Taggers are also available for check out.

2025 Hort Judging Contest

Do you know what it takes to pick the best fruit and vegetables out at the grocery store? Or do you know what judges are looking for when they judge your plants at the county fair? Have you ever wondered, what plant is that!?! We are excited to offer the opportunity to learn these and other important horticulture skills through the Online Horticulture Contest. The contest will be available June 10-24, 2025 at:

<http://go.unl.edu/online4hortcontest>

4-H State Fair Culinary Challenge

Similar to our Favorite Foods Revue, the State Fair has the Culinary Challenge. Participants do NOT need to qualify at the county level to participate in this unique event.

Exhibitors work in a team of two to demonstrate healthy decision making, and apply health living knowledge and skills. Each year has a “challenge ingredient” and the 2025 ingredient is PORK!

Check out information here:

<https://food.unl.edu/food-and-nutrition-projects-nebraska-4-h/>

4-H ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!

PLEASE GO TO

[HTTPS://V2.4HONLINE.COM](https://v2.4honline.com)

AND SIGN UP FOR THE NEW YEAR!

BIG RED CAMPS
JUNE 8-13, 2025
[HTTPS://4H.UNL.EDU/BIG-RED-CAMPS](https://4h.unl.edu/big-red-camps)

Camp Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of the Otoe County 4-H Foundation, there are a limited number of scholarships available for Otoe County 4-Hers to attend 4-H Camp. This includes camps through Nebraska State 4-H Camp, and Big Red Camps hosted on UNL’s campus. Registration is now OPEN for both opportunities.

Please call the Extension Office for information on scholarship availability.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? 2025

4-H CAMP 101	July 13-15, Burwell
4-H CAMP	June 22-26, Chadron July 17-21, Burwell
LEADERS IN TRAINING	May 28-31, Burwell

APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TODAY
GO.UNL.EDU/CAMPSCHOLARSHIP


4h.unl.edu/camp | 4hcampst@unl.edu

Wider Extension Opportunities

HALTER for Adults

A four part series for adult volunteers working with youth in the horse industry or anyone interested in learning more about horses! Content includes basic safety and handling of horses, basic in horse behavior, safely working with youth and horses, basic care of horses, and so much more! Learn more at the link below!

[HALTER](#)



NEW COURSE OFFERING

Horse Adult Leader Training and Educational Resource Program (HALTER)

ITEMS COVERED IN THE COURSE:

LEVEL 1
Equine Safety, Behavior & Youth Strategies



LEVEL 2
Feeding, Health & Youth Development

LEVEL 3
Horse Activities, Breeds & Training

LEVEL 4
Horse Careers, Benefits & Selection

FIND MORE INFORMATION

<https://horses.extension.org/>




2025 GROBigRed Virtual Learning Series

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. CT




Join the experts from Nebraska Extension to learn and ask questions about:

- 2/12 — Starting a Vegetable Garden • Dana Freeman
- 3/12 — Rain Gardens: Where to Use Them/What to Plant in Them • Kelly Feehan
- 4/9 — Trees to Plant & Trees to Avoid • Elizabeth Exstrom
- 5/14 — Consider These Natives • Scott Evans
- 6/11 — Garden Friends • Kait Chapman
- 7/9 — All About Roses • Nicole Stoner & David Lott
- 8/13 — Fall Turf Activities • John Fech
- 9/10 — Basics of Composting • Sarah Browning
- 10/8 — Unusual Small Fruits • Ian Peterson
- 11/12 — Growing Herbs • Mary Jane Frogge

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



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, cooperating with the Canadian and the United States Department of Agriculture.






LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES! ZOOM IN TO ASK QUESTIONS AND HEAR ABOUT OUR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES!

GO.UNL.EDU/VB2S

NOVEMBER 25
7 P.M. CST

FEBRUARY 24
7 P.M. CST

DECEMBER 30
7 P.M. CST

MARCH 31
7 P.M. CST

JANUARY 27
7 P.M. CST

APRIL 28
7 P.M. CST



Thank You!

CHAMPION

First Bank of Nebraska - Syracuse Branch
Stukenholtz Farms

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Tim & Kelly Quinn
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N.V. Helping Hands 4-H Club

ROCKNRS
Allan & Kathie Black
Ron & Mary Beth Grundman
Gene & Cheryl Hobbie
Todd & Terry Smith
Verda Umland
Mike & LaShelle Zimmer
Steve Zimmers

March




2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Otoe County 4-H Foundation Meeting	4 Otoe County Extension Board Meeting	5	6	7 Homeschool Enrichment	8
9	10	11	12 4-H Council Meeting	13	14 YQCA Training 10-11:30 Special Agronomy Project Workshop 2-3pm	15
16	17 Ag Society Meeting	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 County Communications Contest	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



2025
April



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 4-H Council Meeting	10	11 Homeschool Enrichment	12
13	14 Ag Society Meeting	15	16	17	18	19
 20 Easter	21	22	23	24	25	26 Goat and Sheep Weigh In
27	28	29	30			