

>>> OTOE COUNTY <<<<

TIPS ON TAP



Celebrate Nebraska 4-H!

FEBRUARY IS 4-H MONTH!

Celebrate Nebraska 4-H month with us!

- **February 6th - 4-H Spirit Day**
 - Wear your 4-H gear and send us a photo!
- **February 13th - 4-H Volunteer Appreciation Day**
 - Check out our social media as we highlight 4-H volunteers!
- **February 20th - 4-H Supporter Day**
 - Thank your local 4-H supporters!
- **February 27th - Give Back Day**
 - Plan a service project with your 4-H club!
- **February 28th - "Pop" Into 4-H: Get enrolled today!**
 - Enroll in at 4honline.com for the 2025 4-H year!



Leader's Corner

Leaders,

Please encourage your club members to participate in the 4-H Celebration Days! This month we will be highlighting 4-H Volunteers, 4-H supporters, 4-H staff, and more. If you or your 4-H'ers participate, please send any photos to sstephens9@unl.edu.

Another reminder that ALL 4-H club leaders must be re-enrolled on 4honline.com by March 15th - or sooner if your club is meeting!

Happy Nebraska 4-H Month!

Stephanie

Sorry we're
CLOSED

The Extension Office will be closed on the following dates in February:

- Monday, February 17th for President's Day

4-H ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!

PLEASE GO TO

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

AND SIGN UP FOR THE NEW YEAR!

TIPS GOING DIGITAL

This month's Tips on Tap will be the last paper version that will be mailed out.

If you are an enrolled 4-H member, you will continue to receive your Tips through 4-H Online.

If you receive Tips on Tap because of other connections with the Otoe County Extension Office, you are asked to subscribe to the list by sending a message to otoecoext-join@lists.unl.edu with the word "subscribe" written in the subject line. OR, try the QR code below.

If you know of others that would like to stay connected to Otoe County Extension & Otoe County 4-H, share the instructions with them as well or direct them to the "Connect with Us" tab on our website otoe.unl.edu. We would love to increase our reach!

If you would still prefer to have a paper copy mailed to your home, please call the Extension Office at 402.269.2301 to be put on the mailing list.



Special Agronomy Project

The Nebraska Extension Special Agronomy Project gives 4-H members an opportunity to experience a crop that is grown, was grown or has the potential to be grown in Nebraska. Youth participate by receiving seed and resources to grow the crop, research traits of the crop and determine the viability of that crop in the part of the state they live in. The project allows 4-H members interested in agronomy to grow something fun, new, and different. This year, we will be exploring a crop that can be marketed different ways depending on the variety.

In the fifth year of the special agronomy project, youth will explore sunflowers! There are two types of sunflower production in Nebraska. There are those grown for oil production, and those grown for human food consumption referred to as confectionery seeds. A portion of the oil seed production is used in the bird seed industry. Sunflowers are grown throughout the state of Nebraska with the greatest concentration in western Nebraska. The variety we will be growing is a high oleic hybrid. Its oil profile combined with a nice black seed color ensures multiple market options.

For project specifications and details, be sure to go to the Nebraska State Fairbook at <https://4hfairbook.unl.edu/fairbookview.php/rules>.

Register for your seed packet by February 24th in 4HOnline.com using the Events tab. You must be enrolled in the 2025 4-H year to register for a seed packet. Please also choose Agronomy as a Project Area when you enroll. A special THANK YOU to the 4-H Council for financially supporting the purchase of the seeds!



The **Otoe County Communication Contest** will be held the evening of Monday, March 24th at the Kimmel Event Center. Look for details coming to your email this month!





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.

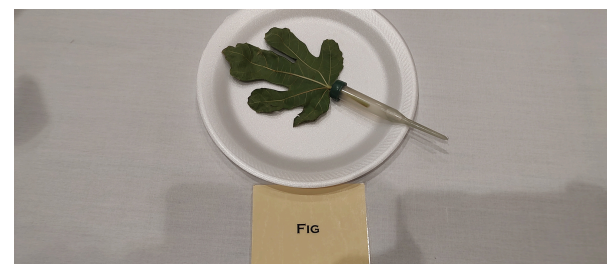
Applications/Sign up are due June 15th through the application form link on the website. Plan and Reports, as well as Project Records will be due August 1st via the completion form on the website.

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 | Nebraska 4-H \(unl.edu\)](http://Livestock Achievement Program | Nebraska 4-H (unl.edu))

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/online4hhortcontest>

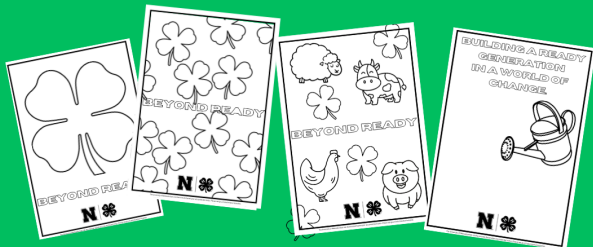
Wider Extension Opportunities

Clover Kids in Otoe Co. 4-H

Were you a 4-Her? Interested in getting your child or grandchild involved? Clover Kids is a great way to do that! Clover Kids is open to youth aged 5-7 (as of Jan. 1st) and they can even show at county fair! Check out our website otoe.unl.edu for enrollment instructions.

We would LOVE to showcase the art of our Clover Kids in the Extension Office to celebrate 4-H month!

Families and clubs are welcome to stop by and pickup blank coloring sheets!



RETURNING TO THE FARM

WORKSHOP SERIES

For families in the transition process of bringing members back to the farm or ranch.

Communication, Goal-Setting, Transition Planning, Financial Tools, and More

March 7-8, 2025 | Hastings
 Register before Feb. 28: \$75/person | \$85 after
cap.unl.edu/rtf25

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2023-70027-40444.

Returning to the Farm

The Center for Agricultural Profitability at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will present Returning to the Farm 2025, a workshop series for families who are in the transition process of bringing members back to the farm or ranch. It will begin with a two-day workshop in for multi-generational families on March 7 and 8, at Central Community College in Hastings, 550 S. Technical Blvd. The series also includes two follow-up workshops, to be held virtually after the in-person meetings.

The series assists families and agricultural operations with developing financial plans and successful working arrangements to meet their unique needs. It will guide families in developing estate and transition plans, setting personal and professional goals and improving the communication process between family members.

“Returning to the Farm gives families the tools and resources to have a successful transition with more family joining the business,” said extension educator Jessica Groskopf. “We really want to have two or three generations come to this together and take that time, as a family, to sit down, learn together and start these important processes.”

Presenters will include extension experts as well as agribusiness and legal professionals. During the program, participants will:

- Learn communication strategies
- Set both personal and professional goals
- Develop a farm or ranch transition plan
- Identify estate planning issues and develop effective strategies for planning
- Review financial feasibility and financial tools

The workshop fee is \$75 per person on or before Feb. 28. March 1, the fee increases to \$85 per person. Registration includes dinner on March 7 and lunch on March 8. It also includes two follow-up workshops, to be held virtually March 18 & April 8, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Central Time. Hotel accommodations are not included.

Wider Extension Opportunities





Remote Pilot Exam Prep Course Resumes January 2025 in Nebraska | CropWatch ...

With expert guidance, hands-on practice, and flexible locations across Nebraska, this course is a...

N cropwatch.unl.edu

Check out the drone training available right here in Otoe County in April!!

Check out the latest UNL beef cattle research at [https://beef.unl.edu/research/unl-beef-cattle-research-reports/!](https://beef.unl.edu/research/unl-beef-cattle-research-reports/)



Women in Ag Conference

The Nebraska Women in Agriculture Conference is an annual two-day event designed to educate and uplift women involved in any aspect of Nebraska' agricultural industry. Through workshops and presentations, attendees will learn how to better manage risk, improve their farms and ranches and become more successful operators and business partners.

Register today!
[Nebraska Women in Agriculture Conference](#)

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



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 • Kail 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://iles.unl.edu/grobigred>

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

Nebraska Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



Where can I find the current and past electronic copies of Tips on Tap?

Look on the otoe.unl.edu website: 4-H > Otoe County 4-H News & Events

Scroll to the bottom to find both the weekly 4-H newsletter and the monthly Extension newsletter.



Thank You!

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Stukenholtz Farms

**WANT TO JOIN THESE SPONSORS?
CALL THE EXTENSION OFFICE TODAY!**

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Todd & Terry Smith

Evelyn Knake Memorial

Verda Umland

N.V. Helping Hands 4-H Club

Mike & LaShelle Zimmer

Steve Zimmers

FEBRUARY IS 4-H MONTH



2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 FOUNDATION BANQUET
2	3	4	5	6 4-H SPIRIT DAY	7	8
9	10	11	12 4-H COUNCIL MEETING	13 4-H VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY	14 HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT	15
16	17	18	19	20 4-H SUPPORTER DAY	21	22
23	24 SPECIAL AGRONOMY DEADLINE	25	26	27 GIVE BACK DAY	28 "POP INTO 4-H" GET ENROLLED TODAY	1

MARCH



2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7 HOMESCHOOL ENRICHEMENT	8
9	10	11	12 4-H COUNCIL MEETING NAT POULTRY DAY	13	14 SPRING WORKSHOP	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST 7PM	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5