

Events to look forward to:

Paws-On 4-H Dog Workshop

- April 28, 2012 Lancaster Event Center

District 4-H Horse Shows

- June 11, 2012 Kearney, NE
- June 12, 2012 Hemingford, NE
- June 13, 2012 Valentine, NE
- June 14, 2012 Lincoln, NE
- June 20, 2012 Bloomfield, NE
- June 21, 2012 North Platte, NE

State 4-H Horse Show

- July 16-19, 2012 Fonner Park

Nebraska State Fair Dog Show

- August 27, 2012

Nebraska State Fair Rabbit Show

- August 28, 2012

Canine Companions for Life 4-H Dog Expo

- October 13-14, 2012



Welcome to Our First Issue

This is the first issue of the UNL C & H News. We plan to provide you with quarterly updates on 4-H and youth events related to companion animals and horses. You can expect to find discussion of upcoming events, results of past events, and information that will help to prepare for these 4-H programs.

This newsletter is provided by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Extension program. The primary contributors to the newsletter are featured on the back of this issue. This will be a great opportunity for us to share what we are doing and the exciting events we have planned for youth in

Nebraska.

In this issue, we are focusing on preparing for summer and showing your animal. There are several events coming up this summer including the district and state horse shows and the state fair companion animal, dog, and rabbit shows. For future issues, we will focus on other educational topics of interest to you.

We would love to hear feedback from you on what you would like to see in the newsletter or special topics to cover. You can provide feedback on either of our facebook pages: [facebook.com/UNLHorse](https://www.facebook.com/UNLHorse) and [facebook.com/UNLcompanionanimal](https://www.facebook.com/UNLcompanionanimal).

In addition, in future

issues, we hope to highlight some of the events and programs going on around the state. If you have an event you would like added to the calendar or have results from an event hosted in your area that would be of interest to our readers, please pass that onto one of us.

We look forward to keeping you up to date on the programs.

- Kathy A., Lena, Lisa, and Kathy P.



Horse Show Entry Deadlines

By: Lena Cottle

Exhibitor entries for the District Horse Show and the State 4-H Horse Exposition are due to the county office by May 11, 2012.

All exhibitors must have passed Level II to enter any District Show Class and this must be done by May 11, 2012.

All exhibitors must have passed Level III to enter classes 20-33 & have passed Level IV to enter class 34.

Horse ID sheets are due by June 1, 2012.

County summary sheets are due to the State 4-H office by May 18, 2012.

Horse judging and hippology entries are due to the state office by June 8, 2012.



Why in the world do we have to do all this Level testing???

By: Kathy Anderson

Flying lead changes, learning to evaluate rations, calculating what it costs to do a year of vaccinations, pivots, differences between bits and how they work, breeds of horses, aging by teeth, written tests, riding tests, club demonstrations — but all I want to do is show my horse so why do I need to do all this other stuff???

Yes, it is a common complaint/question by 4-H members, parents, and sometimes leaders. The answer is — so you are a more rounded, educated person! Every year Nebraska 4-H Horse Project members go through some pain and sometimes agony to pass a certain “Horse Project Advancement Level”. Most often it is because there is a certain level of competition they desire to participate in which requires advancing through certain “Levels”. In Nebraska, to be eligible to compete at the District and State 4-H horse shows, either Horse Project Advancement Level 2, 3 or 4 must be accomplished for certain classes. This is unique to Nebraska 4-H and is certainly one thing that has set the Nebraska program above many others. Numerous states have a “Levels” program, but few require it for competition. However, with it being tied to the District and State 4-H Horse Show events, numerous youth manage to accomplish each level every year.

“4-H is education for life that uses a learn-by-doing approach”

So, since hardly any other state mandates Horseman-ship Levels like Nebraska — why do we?? The bottom line is that the overall mission of 4-H is to teach youth leadership, citizenship, and life skills. “4-H empowers youth to reach their fullest potential by working and learning in partnership with caring adults. 4-H is education for life that uses a learn-by-doing approach”. In short — being in 4-H is much more than just taking your horse to a show once in a while. When you are a 4-H project member, extension staff, leaders, volunteers are all working to

help youth use their horses as a tool to help them become responsible, trustworthy, educated young people. Learning to expand one’s horsemanship skills to a higher level combined with learning how to care for a horse, what it costs to manage that horse and how to advance the horse to an elevated level of training and riding are all skills that will benefit youth in ways they most likely do not realize. Also, the simple realization that certain achievements must be made if a person wants to rope or ride a 2 year old at the state horse shows, helps youth learn to set goals and do what it takes to reach them. Whether 4-Hers realize it or not incorporation of the advancement levels does emphasize learning life skills, such as critical thinking; problem solving; respecting self and others; and managing change and challenges.



Level 4 Exhibitors at the State 4-H Show

It’s unlikely when a youth is working to pass an exam or studying all those teeth and parasites they will make the connection of why they need to know this to being able to rope or show trail at the state horse show. We as parents and leaders need to help them be successful, grow with the project so they can have the pride of accomplishment to get done what they set out to do. It is a challenge and can be tough on youth sometimes, but we must stick to our guns and help the project work as it is intended. It is certainly unfair to all involved to allow corners to be cut and not let all youth gain all the lifelong benefit of accomplishment.

Here are a few quick tips to help youth advance through the “levels program”:

Start early — Anyone wanting to show at the state show for the first time, must have the Advancement Level’s done in early May, so start in the fall or summer before!

Help members fill out the study guide and quiz them on it — Questions on the exams are taken from what is covered in the study guides. Nearly all the information needed is in the 4-H Horse Project manual or on recommended websites as noted.

Print the skills test and practice it — Do a practice riding test to make certain rider’s know all they need to know to get this done. Also be sure they can explain certain things that are asked on the skills test.

Show up early — If you are going somewhere to do the skills test, get there in plenty of time to work out any nerves, warm up some, and make sure both horse and youth are as ready as they can be!

Keep the pressure off — DO NOT try to get everything done a week before the entries are due — this is guaranteed to fail!

Do demonstrations in the winter — Set up winter meetings and have everyone that might want move to the next level do demonstrations to the rest of the club and parents.

Group/club study sessions — Let the members quiz each other and work on this together.

Feed charts/health care group sessions — Work on these together in club meetings

Record keeping - Save everything in a club notebook so if it takes a year to complete all segments, you, the leader have it all together.

Spread it out and don’t try to finish it all today!

Yes, every year we get the complaints that some of this is too much like school and why do we force them to do all of this! However, I still use the example of when my son was 8 and had passed Level 1 to be able to show at his first county fair. When sitting at the stall one day, he corrected an adult on the proper name of the bit and how it works! She was VERY impressed and learned a thing or two of her own. Now, if he had not been through Level 1, who knows if he would have made such an impression! It will not hurt any of these youth to learn and grow! <http://liferaydemo.unl.edu/web/anisci/ANSC4HHorseProgramAdvancementLevels>

Showing Your Cat in 4-H

By: Lisa Karr-Lilienthal

How to Prepare:

Veterinary visit and "Nebraska 4-H Certificate of Vaccinations" form

- Your cat is required to have rabies, panleukopenia, viral rhinotracheitis vaccines
- Check for external and internal parasites
- Look for fleas or signs of fleas on your cat
- Check ears for signs of mites
- Recommended that a flea and tick preventative be used on any cat you plan to show
- You will not be allowed to show if parasites are present

Prepare your showmanship presentation

- Start on this a few weeks before the fair
- Practice handling the cat so it's comfortable

Study for showmanship exam

- Use your 4-H Cat Manuals

Groom your cat 2-3 times per week

- This prevents mats in hair and keeps your cat used to being handled
- Bathe your cat 2-3 days before the show
- By doing it early, you allow the natural oils in your cat's hair to return
- Also some cats will shed more after bathing

and this will keep your cat from shedding in the show

Trim toenails

- All cats should have their nails trimmed
- Best if done 2-3 days before the show

Clean around ears and eyes

- Make sure there is no build up around eyes or in ears, wipe with moist cotton ball to clean

What to Bring:

- Cat
- Carrier
- Food and water
- Litter pan with litter
- Towel or blanket
- Cage cover
- Grooming supplies

What to Wear:

- White long sleeve shirt with 4-H emblem, tucked in
- At the state fair, official State Fair 4-H T-shirt provided
- Long pants (dark blue jeans)
- Closed toed shoes

Cat showmanship



What to include in your showmanship presentations:

- Your name and age
- Cat's name, age, and breed
- If your cat is spayed/neutered
- How you care for your cat
- What vaccinations your cat had
- What health treatments your cat gets
- What your cat eats and how much
- How often do you groom
- How did you prepare for show
- Something special about your cat

You are also judged on the appearance of your cat's space and cage and your own personal appearance. Make sure you are neat and tidy!

Showing Your Dog in 4-H

By: Amanda Young

The following tips can be used to help you prepare for your local county 4-H dog show

Grooming:

Head:

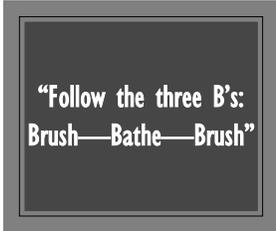
- Smooth-faced dogs need to have trimmed whiskers
- Make sure eyes and nose are free of "goobers"
- Clean ears with an approved cleaner

Feet:

- Trim all nails 2-5 days before the show
- Trim paw hair on long haired dogs

Body:

- Follow the three B's: Brush—Bathe—Brush
- Brush over your dog's entire body to remove mats. Pay special attention to areas around their ears, elbows, chest and rear legs
- Continue to brush your dog frequently until the show day
- Wipe over your dog with damp hands right before you go into the ring to remove any loose dirt and fur
- Make sure all stray hairs are trimmed



Knowledge:

Know how you feed your dog:

- What brand do you feed?
- How much do you feed?
- How often?
- What are the first three ingredients in your dog's food?
 - How much crude protein is there in your dog's diet?

Know about your dog's breed:

- What breed is your dog?
- What year was this breed recognized by the AKC?
 - What AKC group does this breed fall into?
 - What is the purpose of this breed?
- What are the average life expectancy, height and weight of this breed?
- What is the most common health problem in this breed?

Know about your dog's anatomy

- Where is your dog's occiput? (and related dog part questions)
- How many teeth does an adult (or puppy) have?
- How many pairs of ribs does a dog have?

Know about your dog's health history

- What vaccinations are required for 4-H?

- When did your dog get his last set of shots?
- When was your dog dewormed last?
- How much does your dog weigh?
- How old is your dog?
- Is your dog spayed/neutered?
- Who is your veterinarian?

Know how you groomed your dog

- What blade size did your groomer use to trim your dog's fur?
- How did you get your dog ready for today's show?

Know potential parasites

- What are external parasites of dogs?
- What are the internal parasites of dogs?
- How can you protect against these parasites?

Know how to address the judge

- Always answer with, "Yes/No ma'am/sir!" when directed to do something in the arena
- Manners AND confidence are extremely important in the show ring!



Stampede Results



February 18, 2012

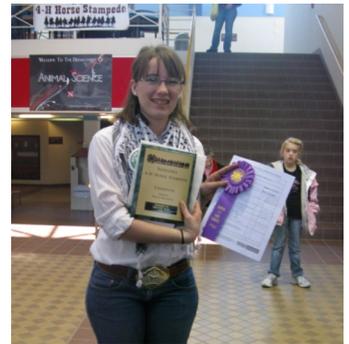
The 4-H Horse Stampede was a huge success with 130 total kids participating in the four events; horse bowl, public speaking, demonstrations and an art contest. There was tough competition and great sportsmanship demonstrated from all the participants. All championship individuals and teams are qualified to compete at national 4-H contests.



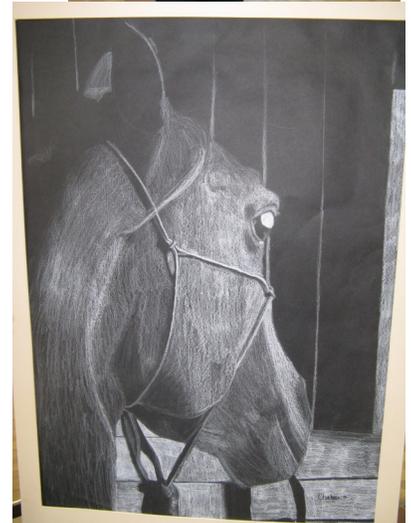
There were 15 teams which participated in the horse bowl contest. The championship team was from Douglas/Sarpy County and reserve championship team was from Lancaster county and included Hannah Ronnau, Elli Dearmont, Kate Rawlinson, Kenzie Wolfe, and Brooke Bennett this team was coached by Kendra Ronnau.



Thirteen individuals competed in the demonstration contests either as a junior or senior and as an individual or as a team. In the senior division two teams competed and the championship team was from Lancaster County and the participants were Ivy Dearmont and Lexi Wolfe. The reserve championship team was from Douglas/Sarpy County and the participants were Taylor Barnes and Becca Gunderson. The individual champion in the senior division was Hannah Ronnau from Lancaster County and the reserve champion was Thomas Stoysich from Douglas/Sarpy County. The individual champion in the junior division was Leah Treffer from Dawson County and the reserve champion was Jacob Ronnau from Lancaster County.



Eight individuals competed in the public speaking contest in either the senior or junior division. The champion in the senior division was Taylor Barnes from Douglas/Sarpy County and the reserve champion was Megan Luedtke from Lancaster County. The champion in the junior division was Danyl Bromander from Frontier County and the reserve champion was Ryan Koenig from Holt County.



The art contest consisted of 43 contestants in both the senior and junior divisions. The champion in the senior division was Miranda Lauby from Dawson County and the reserve champion was Chelsea Harders from Lancaster County. The champion in the junior division was Sidney Schlesinger from Lancaster County and the reserve champion was Jenna Wolfe from Lancaster County.



An Important Decision: Getting A New Companion Animal

By: Kathy Potthoff

It is important to avoid adopting or purchasing a new companion animal before thinking through what all is necessary to provide good care for the new animal. A good way to explore getting a particular type of companion animal is to make a list of the things that the animal needs, expenses, and other factors to determine if that animal is a good choice for the whole family.

To start the process, youth can gather information about the different types of companion animals that they might like to have and then use that information to make the best decision based on the family lifestyle and ability of the members to care for the animal. It is also important to gather information regarding a specific breed within a species. Visiting with someone who already owns that type of companion animal is also a good strategy to help in the decision making process. Here are some items to consider:

-Life span of the companion animal – what is the average life span of the companion animal and is the family able to make the commitment to care for the animal for the entire life span of the animal?

-Housing and weather – will the animal live inside, outside, or combination and will it be able to keep cool in the summer or warm in the winter?

Will family members provide fresh water continually and be sure it is not frozen solid in the winter?

-Size of pet – is there room in the home or if the animal will spend some time outside, is the yard area fenced?

-Training – do family members have time to be sure the animal is well socialized and trained to behave in the appropriate manner

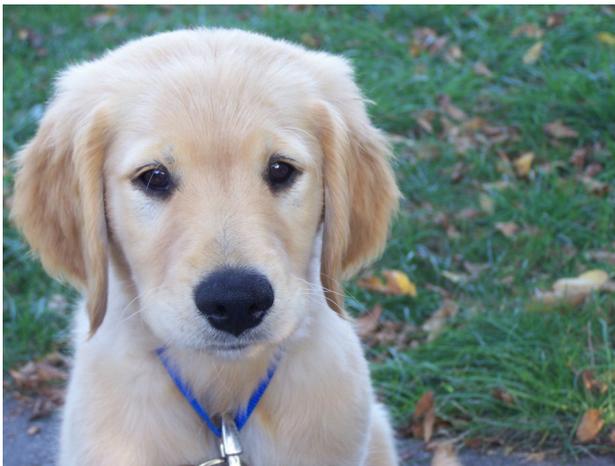
such as house breaking and going out for walks in public settings?

-Family lifestyle – how often is the family home or very busy with activities? Can the animal travel with the family or will additional

care need to be confirmed before the family goes out of town? Are family members willing to help share in animal care responsibilities?

-Family members allergies – do any members of the family have allergies for certain companion animals?

-Animal care – how much time is needed and specifically who will take on which roles? Will family members share responsibilities? (feed, care, clean up, exercise, train, groom, play, etc...)



spaying or neutering?

-Current companion animal(s) in the home – does the family already have companion animals and do they have enough time and other resources to care for an additional animal? Is

the current animal well socialized so that after introductions, the new companion animal would be accepted into the home?

-Animal food – does the type of companion animal require any specialized

feed and is it easy to purchase that type of food in the community where the family lives? What is the cost of the food?

-Costs – Is the family able to cover the expenses of toys, food, medications, vaccinations, housing or crate, collar and leash, animal sitter, etc....?

-Other – Is there other information that needs to be considered?

It is an exciting time to be thinking about getting a new animal! But, it is very important to think carefully through these things when a family is considering getting a new companion animal before they make a commitment. Finding out many details and going through this process can help ensure the right animal is selected for the family and that a new animal is not selected in a moment of impulse.

-Grooming – what type of grooming will the animal require? What is the cost involved or will a family member gain the skills and equipment necessary and do it?

-Medical care – does the type of animal have any special require-

ments for medical attention or care? Has the animal had a health check up or current on all vaccinations? What is the cost associated with

**Companion Animal
And
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Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal, assistant professor in Companion Animal Science. Lisa received a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Illinois State University and then received her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in Companion Animal Nutrition. Her research has focused on nutrition of dogs, cats, and other non-ruminant animals.

She advises undergraduate students and teaches courses, in Companion Animals. She also serves as the adviser to Students for Education of Companion and Exotic Animals. She oversees and develops youth extension and outreach programming related to companion animal care and management.



Dr. Lena Cottle, Equine Extension Specialist. Lena received her bachelor's degree in Equine Business and Industry, a master's degree in Animal Science and a doctorate degree in Systems Agriculture from West Texas A&M University.

She oversees and develops youth extension and outreach programming related to the horse. She is taking over the 4-H Horse Youth activities including but not limited to the Stampede, District and State 4-H Horse Shows, 4-H Horse Show Judges clinics, and other youth related activities.



Dr. Kathy Anderson, Extension Horse Specialist. Kathy received her bachelor's degree in Animal Science/Agriculture Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a master's degree in Physiology of Reproduction from Texas A&M University, and doctorate degree in Animal Science Kansas State University.

She advises undergraduate students and teaches courses, on Horses. She oversees and develops extension and outreach programming related to horse care and management; such as eXtension (Horse Quest) and Equine Science work group and producer education.



Kathy Potthoff, UNL 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator – has been with the UNL with experience working in the Southwest Four Extension Program Unit and the Nebraska State 4-H Office. Kathy is working with 4-H programming in animal science areas of horse and companion animals, youth development and volunteer training, and cultural competence.

She has presented 4-H educational programs on the national, regional, state, and local levels in Positive Youth Development, Volunteer Development, Cultural Education, Outdoors, Companion Animals, Horse, and other Animal Science areas.