First FFA Vet Science Contest

April 4th, 2013 marked the date of the very first Nebraska State FFA Vet Science Contest. The competition was held at the Animal Science Complex at University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Twenty-four teams of four students competed. The students competed in four different categories including a written exam, equipment, breed, and parasite identification, handling, and clinical practicum procedures (i.e. place a muzzle on a dog or demonstrate holding a cat for blood draw). Students had commented on a survey at the end of the day stating, “[The contest] gave us a good idea on what a vet would do” and “it was a new and good experience.”

Congratulations to the top five individuals and teams!
- Delanie Bruce of West Point
- Mckenzie Cuba of Twin Rivers
- Hayley Kouma of East Butler
- Taylor Brester of West Point
- Lane Schroer of Lawrence-Nelson

Congratulations to the top five schools
- Twin Rivers
- West Point
- Waverly
- Lawrence-Nelson
- Alliance!

We look forward to next year’s contest!
UNL Equestrian Team

2012-2013 Show Season Highlights

The Husker Equestrian Team experienced a very successful 2012-2013 season. Traveling to schools across the region and the country, the Huskers left their mark wherever they went. The Hunt Seat team competed at schools such as the University of Colorado, University of Wyoming, and Colorado College. The Western team traveled to Colby Community College and Laramie County Community College. Both teams also had the chance to compete at shows hosted right here at UNL. The team put on five separate Western shows and two Hunt Seat shows this year. The Hunt Seat shows, held in February, were especially exciting, as they were the inaugural hunt seat shows hosted by the Husker Equestrian Team.

After many noteworthy regular season performances, the Huskers qualified fourteen individual riders (both Western and Hunt Seat) for Regionals, in addition to coming in first place as the Western Regional Champions for the ninth year in a row. This forwarded six Western team riders (Katrina Quick, Hordville, NE, Kallie Kayton, Albino, NE, Morgan Mardock, Lincoln, NE, Brooke Preston, Firth, NE, Blake Preston, Firth, NE, Lindsey Bode, Elgin, NE, Dustin Renken, Bertran, NE, Ethan Callahan, Brady, NE, Courtney Spilker, Beatrice, NE) to the Team competition at Semi-Finals, held in Syracuse, NY, in addition to individual qualifiers from Regionals. There, the Huskers defended their title as Semi-Finals Champions for the second year in a row. Two Hunt seat team riders (Nicole D-Angelo, Auburn, CA, and Emily Waring, Omaha, NE) also qualified for the Zone 8 Championships, hosted by our region at the Colorado Horse Park.

The Western team riders and individual Semi-finals qualifiers will travel to Harrisburg, PA for the National Championships, held May 2-5.

Congratulations, Huskers, on a successful year, and good luck at Nationals!
2013 Stampede Results

The 4-H Horse Stampede was a huge success with 147 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 Lancaster County consisting of Kate Rawlinson, Hannah Ronnau, Elli Dearmont, Lexi Wolfe, and Ivy Dearmont coached by Kendra Ronnau. The reserve championship team was from Douglas/Sarpy county consisting of Catherine Jones, Hailey Kramer, Abbie Wesely, Kirsten Hall, and Mariah Moore this team was coached by Taylor Barnes.

Sixteen individuals competed in the demonstration contests either as a junior or senior and as an individual or as a team. In the senior division three teams competed and the championship team was from Douglas/Sarpy County and the participants were Heidi Wesely and Courtney Everhart. The reserve championship team was from Lancaster County and the participants were Kenzie Wolfe and Megan Luedtke. The individual champion in the senior division was Neil Henderson from Dawson County and the reserve champion was Erika Warner from Lancaster County. The individual champion in the junior division was Leah Treffer from Lancaster County.

Nine individuals competed in the public speaking contest in either the senior or junior division. The champion in the senior division was Hannah Ronnau from Lancaster County and the reserve champion was Sierra Nelson from Lancaster County. The champion in the junior division was Jenna Wolfe from Lancaster County.

The art contest consisted of 36 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 Ivy Dearmont from Lancaster County. The champion in the junior division was Lyndi Weber from Lancaster County and the reserve champion was Emmi Dearmont from Lancaster County.

Congratulations to all that participated!

TRIVIA!
Test your knowledge with the following trivia questions! (Answers on page 4)
- What part of the horse is considered to be like the ‘wrist’ on a human?
- Which species in the cat family is the only one that does not have retractable claws?

Enter our photo contest!
Send in the cutest, funniest, fluffiest, or craziest picture you have of your beloved companion animal or equine friend! The winner will be feature in the next issue! All entries must be sent to lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu or lcottle2@unl.edu by August 15th, 2013
4-H Cat Care Clinics

The purpose of these clinics is to teach students more about cat care and to improve 4-H showing skills! This fun, hands-on event will take place at multiple locations on multiple dates. The workshop, being put on by the University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension, will focus on basic cat care, health, feeding/nutrition, and showing for 4-H. The registration fee is $5. For questions, please call Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal at (402) 472—6458 or email at lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu. For registration contact the host county extension office.

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<tr>
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<td>5/24</td>
<td>1:30 - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Adams Co. Extension Office</td>
<td>Elizabeth Janning \n\<a href="mailto:nelizabeth.janning@unl.edu">nelizabeth.janning@unl.edu</a></td>
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<td>6:00 - 8:00pm</td>
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<td>Gary Bergman \<a href="mailto:ngbergman1@unl.edu">ngbergman1@unl.edu</a></td>
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<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>Madison Co. Extension Office</td>
<td>Sarah Polacek \<a href="mailto:nspolacek2@unl.edu">nspolacek2@unl.edu</a></td>
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<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
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<td>Patricia Bohaboj \<a href="mailto:npbohaboj@unl.edu">npbohaboj@unl.edu</a></td>
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<td>Jennifer Hansen \<a href="mailto:nhansen6@unl.edu">nhansen6@unl.edu</a></td>
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<td>6/5</td>
<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>Valley County Extension Office/Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Kayla Hinrichs \<a href="mailto:nkhinrichs3@unl.edu">nkhinrichs3@unl.edu</a></td>
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<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>Washington Co. Extension Office</td>
<td>JoAnn Jensen \<a href="mailto:njoann.jensen@unl.edu">njoann.jensen@unl.edu</a></td>
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<td>Lincoln County Fair Grounds</td>
<td>Brenda Aufdenkamp \<a href="mailto:nbrenda.aufdenkamp@unl.edu">nbrenda.aufdenkamp@unl.edu</a></td>
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<td>6/11</td>
<td>3:00 - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Broken Bow, 4-H Building Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Colleen Peterson \<a href="mailto:ncolleen.peterson@unl.edu">ncolleen.peterson@unl.edu</a></td>
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<td>Douglas/Sarpy</td>
<td>6/17</td>
<td>1:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Extension Auditorium</td>
<td>Catherine Raneri \<a href="mailto:ncraneri2@unl.edu">ncraneri2@unl.edu</a></td>
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Help us make our newsletter better!
Answer the following questions and send your response to http://go.unl.edu/chsurvey
1. What would you change about this issue?
2. What is one thing you’d like to see in the next issue?
3. Do you believe there is helpful information in this issue? If so, what is helpful?
4. Any other suggestions to better our newsletter?

Trivia answers!
- What part of the horse is considered to be like the ‘wrist’ on a human? The fetlock joint!
- Which species in the cat family is the only one that does not have retractable claws? The cheetah!
Is your local youth doing great things with companion animals or horses?!

Do you have updates or news on youth in your area dealing with companion animals? If so, send the information and pictures to lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu or lcottle2@unl.edu. Your youth may be featured in our next issue!

**2013 NEBRASKA DISTRICT 4-H HORSE SHOWS**

al entries due to county office **May 10, 2013**

Note: ALL Level testing required for participation in the 2013 District 4-H Horse Shows MUST be completed by MAY 10, 2013

2013 Districts Dates and Sites
June 11 – Chadron
June 12 – McCook
June 13 – Lexington
June 14 – Beatrice
June 18 – O’Neill
June 19 – West Point

Reminder: All Entries for the State Horse must be mailed by May 10, 2013. These include Showmanship, Halter, All Cattle Classes, Hunter Hack, Dressage, Advanced Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Pleasure and Horsemanship, Trail, 2 year old and 3 year old Western Pleasure and Working Ranch.

2013 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show July 15 - 18, 2013
Summer Preparation and Getting Your Dog Ready For Competition
– Kathy Potthoff, Extension Educator

As you practice with your dog and start to think about educational clinics, competitions and show events there are several things to consider for your dog preparation and practice sessions. Thinking in advance about these topics will help you not only in the competition setting but with your training experiences and dog’s ability to learn, stay healthy, and be active with your family activities.

Keep a Positive Attitude – Things may not always go as planned and you and your dog may not learn a new skill quite as fast as you hoped but keeping a positive attitude and praising your dog for small steps is important. The little steps grow to bigger steps which lead to developing that new skill.

Training Journal – During most club practice sessions tips and suggestions for practice will be discussed. It can be hard to remember these details once you are home, so it is a good idea to jot down some of the suggestions and then refer to them during the week when you practice. This is especially a good idea for youth who work with more than one dog at a time.

Video – Watching your practice session may help you realize an area you are having problems with such as a tight leash during heeling. It is good to then tape a later session and then look for areas of improvement.

What to Practice - Many dogs have issues with impulse control and dealing with distractions. Teach sit in a situation with a mildly exciting distraction and build to moderate or more difficult distraction. Set up your dog for success by building slowly. Practice in several different locations not just at home or at your club practice location.

Keep it fun! – Teach healing doodle games, give a treat, and chase or play with a toy during frequent breaks to reinforce the behaviors that you wish to reward.

Breaks – take frequent breaks and incorporate play with your dog.

Avoid Excessive Repetition - Break down the exercise and practice in a different order. For some obedience exercises and agility moves, the handler will want to practice without the dog first to learn the moves and foot work as to not confuse the dog.

Exercise and Condition - Practice often and build up your dog’s ability to be in great shape physically and mentally and able to perform at his best during competition. Events such as agility are physically demanding for the dog and regular exercise will also help reduce the potential for injury.

Where to Get Ideas – there are many articles, books, and videos by canine enthusiasts and trainers that incorporate positive training techniques. Ask someone who has training or competition experience for ideas. Swap ideas with other 4-H clubs at clinics or competitions.

Dog Care - Grooming and care of the dog is a very important factor when caring for an animal. Youth need to brush, comb and groom their dogs as their hair coat and trim style make it necessary. Checking the dog each day for overall health is a good practice to notice any illnesses or health concerns when they first appear. In showmanship, dogs are examined by the judge to note good health teeth, nails, and ear condition. Judges may ask questions about dog care topics and vaccinations. Practice sample questions during club practices.

Examine Dogs Weight and Body Condition – A dog that is at a healthy weight (not too heavy or too thin) will be able to participate fully in dog sports and stay healthier.

What to Bring – keep a list of what equipment is needed to take to dog practice sessions or clinics as well as a list for what to take to competitions such as county or state fair. At a club meeting, members can develop a list together and then share it with all members. Experienced families can also help mentor new families at show events.

Explore – Youth may visit dog sport trials and competitions to watch other people work with and participate in dog sports with their dogs. It is good to notice the warm up exercises which will have an obedience base to connect the handler and dog as well as to physically warm up and prepare the dog for their turn in the ring.

Take note of some of these ideas and mark them in your journal or notebook on things to practice or work on with your dog. This will help youth track their progress and realize that the work that they do with their own dog does not end in the show ring. The judge gives a score for a moment of time and how well the dog and handler performs a set of standards. The youth is the one that truly knows how far they have come as a team and what goals they are accomplishing from one month to the next. There may be ups as well as some harder days but it is good to keep that in perspective that you are working with your dog to be a well-trained family animal while learning and having fun!
UNL Equine Extension hosts Law Enforcement Training for Equine Abuse and Neglect cases.
Kathy Anderson, UNL Extension Horse Specialist

Due to a variety of factors such as the increase in unwanted horses and limited hay supplies due to drought there has been an increasing number of reported cases of equine abuse &/or neglect. Often times, law enforcement officials assigned to respond to equine related calls have limited horse knowledge and/experience. Therefore UNL Equine Extension and the Nebraska Horse Welfare Coalition have stepped in to educate law enforcement officials. Two workshops have been conducted to help prepare officials who are called out on abuse/neglect cases related to horses.

The first workshop was held in the spring, 2012 in Lincoln, NE and the second was recently held at the Haythorn Ranch in 2013. Nearly 50 law enforcement officials have gained a wealth of valuable information and hands-on experiences that have helped them when being called out on such cases. The program focuses on providing law enforcement officials tools to help them investigate equine cases and be more comfortable in dealing with horses. The program included some very basic information on breeds, colors and how to body condition score horses by UNL Extension Horse Specialist Kathy Anderson. Additionally, Gary Stauffer, Extension Educator from Holt County provided insight on the body language and behavior of horses to help attendees be safer when handling and moving around horses. Additionally, they were provided the opportunity to learn how to safely handle horses such as haltering, leading and tying. Additionally, information was provided by Dr. Steven White, Omaha, NE on horses health and the nutritional needs and when veterinary assistance might be needed. He provided examples of some of the classic “red flags” of neglect to watch for. Furthermore, Extension Educators Doug Anderson (Keith County) and Monte Stauffer (Douglas/Sarpy) provided information on what to look for in quality hay and not to be fooled by what might be available. They showed great examples of acceptable and unacceptable hay as sometimes forages may be found at a facility, but have minimal use to horses. Some of the most valuable information was presented by Kristie Biodrowski of the Nebraska Humane Society and Jay Ferris from Nebraska Farm Bureau. They presented information on proper investigative methods to use, and what to look for and document during an investigation. Additionally they provided information on what to do once they recognize they have a abuse &/or neglect case and resources, contacts and other information necessary when dealing with cases.

The program over the past two years has been extremely appreciated by all those in attendance. One of the greatest assets of the program was being able to not only provide a wealth of information and resources, but also to provide some “hand-on” experiences for those with limited horse experience. Participants were able to load horses in trailers; halter, lead and tie the; body condition score; look at the teeth and determine which were “aged” or young and examine actual hay samples, etc. Plans are to continue this workshop in 2014, as those attending have realized the benefit of the workshop when investigating horse related cases.
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.

Dr. 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.

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.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.