

# Ashley M. Benes

Associate Extension Educator/Statewide 4-H Youth Development Coordinator

Nebraska Extension

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Strategic \* Woo \* Communication \* Ideation \* Responsibility

## Education

University of Nebraska- Lincoln (August 2013)

M.S. Leadership Education

Project Title: STEM Programming in the Southeast District of UNL Extension

Teaching Certificate (May 2008)

Agricultural Education

Student Teaching Site- Schuyler Central High School in Schuyler, NE

University of Nebraska- Lincoln (December 2007)

B.S. Agricultural Education

Supporting Areas of Emphasis- Animal Science and Cooperative Extension

## Related Experiences

*Nebraska Extension (December 2017- present)*

Statewide 4-H Youth Development Coordinator

- Serve on multiple committees, boards and advisories to move the mission of Extension forward across the state.
- Coordinate and teach professional development programs for statewide 4-H staff and statewide trainings.
- Collaboratively supervise 4-H Educators in Nebraska Extension Zones 6, 9, 10, and 11.
- Develop educational opportunities, lessons and programs.
- Assist county 4-H staff with policy and obtaining resources.
- Maintain contact and serve as the liaison between county programs and state 4-H office.
- Serve as liaison between UNL Animal Science faculty and state 4-H staff and programs.

*Lincoln Children's Museum (May 2017-December 2017)*

Chief Education and Program Officer

- Serve on museum leadership team and guide efforts regarding budget, museum expansion plans, staffing and opportunities for growth or change.
- Coordinate all educational programs for the museum including camps, afterschool programs, enrichment programs, outreach events and educational aspects of events
- Develop educational interactive activities and exhibits
- Maintain volunteer database and coordinate all volunteer efforts
- Manage all Education Department staff

- Helped revamp culture code and staff recognition Actively involved team member who assists in staff professional development and mentoring of all museum staff
- Network in Early Childhood groups in Lincoln and the surrounding area

*Nebraska Extension in Cass County (July 2013-May 2017)*

Extension Educator and Unit Leader

- Coordinated all aspects of 4-H program in Cass County including assessing needs, data collection, member databases and sponsorships
- Managed staff, office budget, program budgets and multiple boards
- Recruited and worked closely with local volunteers and community partnerships
- Taught 4-H Afterschool, school enrichment, 4-H Workshops and festival lessons regarding STEM and Agricultural Literacy
- Worked with diverse, ethnic, cultural and socio-economic populations across the state
- Led STEM Careers Statewide Issue team and collaborate on statewide efforts
- 4-H Coach, Educator Mentor, and served on multiple advisory boards at the state and district levels

*University of Nebraska- Lincoln Extension in Hall County (June 2010-June 2013)*

Extension Assistant

- Coordinated all livestock, horse and science aspects of 4-H in Hall County
- Taught 4-H Afterschool, school enrichment, 4-H Workshops and ag/outdoor festival lessons regarding Ag Literacy, Animal Science and Science
- Responsible for Quality Assurance training, Horse Levels testing and coordinating ATV and Tractor Safety trainings
- Coached and coordinated Livestock Judging and Skill-a-thon teams
- Worked with a diverse population where I chartered and worked with a Latino 4-H group and its volunteers
- Recruited and worked closely with local volunteers and community partners

*Norfolk Public Schools (June 2008-June 2010)*

Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor

- Taught six classes to a very ethnic and socio-economically diverse student population at both the high school and junior high schools
- Advised students and helped them develop, improve and keep records on their Supervised Agricultural Experiences
- Responsible for preparing students for FFA contests
- Managed the FFA budget and handled all FFA fundraising efforts
- Worked closely with local stakeholders and FFA Alumni to better our program and increase opportunities for youth
- Assessed the ag program annually and worked with administration to better our organization

## **Publications and Curriculum**

Benes, A., Rasmussen, J. "Empowering for Program Sustainability" modules and video series, (2022).

Benes, A., DeJong, M., Foge, J., Glup, S., Krehbiel, M., Manning, L., Mincemoyer, C., Napoli, A., Poppe, L., Rosas, K., Stout, E. "Building Better Babysitters Facilitator Guidebook" and Building Better Babysitters Teen Workbook", (2022).

Benes, A., Reiling, B., Kinley, K. "Tattooing Your Beef Project" video, (2021).

Benes, A., Walker, M. "PYDin3 Podcast" Professional Development podcase series, (2020-present).

Benes, A., Elsen, K., Herrick, R., Janning, E., Mracek, M., Pesek, D., Schwartz, J., Stehlik, E., Vlieger, M., "Animals Inside & Out, 6-8 grade curriculum," (2019).

Benes, A., Goedeken, J., Kaslon, L., Lingard, J., Lodl, K., Walker, M., "4-H Council Video Series," (2018-2019).

Benes, A., Herrick, R., Janning, E., Pesek, D., Potthoff, K., Schwartz, J., Stehlik, E., "Animals Inside & Out, 3-5 grade curriculum," (2013).

Benes, A. "Animal Safety-Clover Kid Animal Science lesson," (2012).

## **Presentations/Posters**

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Buseman, B. (Presenter & Author), "4-H Beef Project Opportunities," Nebraska Cattlemen Convention, Kearney, NE. (December 2021).

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Meador, C. (Author), Reiling, B.A., (Author), Raymond, A. (Author), Sullivan, G. (Author), "Innovative Collaboration of Youth Promotes Deeper Learning with the Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium," NAE4HA National Conference, White Sulphur Springs, WV. (November 2019).

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Bruns, K. (Author), Burson, D. (Author), Krehbiel, C. (Author), Lodl, K. (Author), Reiling, B.A., (Author), "Nebraska 4-H Fed Steer Challenge: faculty, beef industry representatives and youth collaborating to make real-world connections," NAE4HA National Conference, White Sulphur Springs, WV. (November 2019).

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Lingard, J. (Presenter & Author), UNL Animal Science Faculty Seminar, "Nebraska 4-H: inspiring youth through animal science," Animal Science Department. (October 31, 2018).

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Walker, M. (Presenter & Author), L. K. (Author Only), Rice, K. (Author Only), NAE4HA National Conference, "Reimagining County 4-H Program Possibilities: Nebraska

Extension's county 4-H program strategic planning package," NAE4HA, Columbus, OH. (October 11, 2018).

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Walker, M. (Presenter & Author), Kaslon, L. (Presenter & Author), Rice, K. (Presenter & Author), NAE4HA National Conference, "Reimagining County 4-H Program Possibilities: Nebraska Extension's county 4-H program strategic planning package," Columbus, OH. (October 9, 2018).

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Stehlik, E. (Presenter & Author), Pesek, D. (Presenter & Author), "Animals Inside & Out," National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, Kansas City, MO. (June 2017).

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Janning, B. (Presenter & Author), Herrick, R. (Presenter & Author), Stehlik, E. (Presenter & Author), Pesek, D. (Presenter & Author), Potthoff, K. (Presenter & Author), "Animals Inside and Out," NAE4HA National Conference, Portland, OR. (October 2016).

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Herrick, R. (Presenter & Author), Janning, B. (Presenter & Author), Stehlik, E. (Presenter & Author), Vlieger, M. (Presenter & Author), "Animals Inside & Out," National Science Teachers Association Conference, Denver, CO. (July 2016).

Benes, A. (Presenter & Author), Janning, B. (Presenter & Author), Herrick, R. (Presenter & Author), Stehlik, E. (Presenter & Author), Pesek, D. (Presenter & Author), Potthoff, K. (Presenter & Author), Poster-"Animals Inside and Out," NAE4HA National Conference, Minneapolis, MN. (October 2015).

## Grants

Benes, A. (Principal Investigator), Lodi, K. (Investigator), "Enhancing Financial Literacy - Lead," Sponsored by National 4-H Council, Associations/Foundations, \$10,000.00. (October 1, 2022 - May 30, 2023).

Reiling, B. (Principal Investigator), Sullivan, G. (Investigator), Raymond, A. (Investigator), Benes, A. (Investigator), Buseman, B. (Investigator), French, B. (Investigator), "NYBLS," Sponsored by Ne Beef Council, Industry, \$2,500.00. (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022).

Reiling, B. (Principal Investigator), Sullivan, G. (Investigator), Benes, A. (Investigator), Raymond, A. (Investigator), French, B. (Investigator), Buseman, B. (Investigator), "NYBLS," Sponsored by Ne Corn Board, State Agencies, \$2,500.00. (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).

Lodi, K. (Principal Investigator), Benes, A. (Investigator), "Enhancing Financial Literacy - Lead," Sponsored by National 4-H Council, Associations/Foundations, \$70,000.00. (January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).

Lodi, K. (Principal Investigator), Benes, A. (Investigator), "Enhancing Financial Literacy - Lead," Sponsored by National 4-H Council, Associations/Foundations, \$70,000.00. (January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021).

Benes, A. (Principal Investigator), VanDeWalle, B. (Investigator), VanDeWalle, B. (Investigator), Kreikemeier, J. (Investigator), Kreikemeier, J. (Investigator), Nygren, A. (Investigator), Nygren, A.

(Investigator), "Ag Innovators Biotech TOOLS," Sponsored by National 4-H Council, Associations/Foundations.

Lodl, K. (Principal Investigator), Benes, A. (Investigator), "Enhancing Financial Literacy - Lead," Sponsored by National 4-H Council, Associations/Foundations, \$20,000.00. (October 1, 2019 - March 1, 2021).

Lodl, K. (Principal Investigator), Benes, A. (Investigator), "Enhancing Financial Literacy - Lead," Sponsored by National 4-H Council, Associations/Foundations, \$20,000.00. (October 1, 2019 - January 1, 2021).

Lodl, K. (Principal Investigator), Benes, A. (Investigator), "Enhancing Financial Literacy - Lead," Sponsored by National 4-H Council, Associations/Foundations, \$84,600.00. (October 1, 2019 - January 1, 2021).

Lodl, K. (Principal Investigator), Benes, A. (Investigator), "Enhancing Financial Literacy - Lead," Sponsored by National 4-H Council, Associations/Foundations, \$84,600.00. (October 1, 2019 - January 1, 2021).

Benes, A., "Nebraska Extension Professional Development Grant: Gallup Strengths Coach Training, Universities, \$1,000.00. (June 2019-December 2019).

Benes, A. (Principal Investigator), "Nebraska 4-H Commodity Carnival," Sponsored by National 4-H Council, Associations/Foundations, \$23,800.00. (March 12, 2018 - November 1, 2019).

Benes, A., Benes, A., Fisk, C., Weitzenkamp, D., "4-H New Audience Grant: MakerFest," Sponsored by Nebraska 4-H, Universities, \$2,500.00. (December 2016 - Present).

Benes, A., "MakerFest Grant," Sponsored by Kimmel Foundation, NU Foundation, \$2,500.00. (2016).

Benes, A., Sponsored by Nebraska 4-H, Industry, \$400.00. (June 2016 - August 2016).

Benes, A., Janning, E., Benes, A., Herrick, R., Pesek, D., Stehlik, E., Vlieger, M., "National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) STEM & Forum", " Sponsored by Nebraska Extension, Universities, \$2,160.00. (June 2016 - July 2016).

Benes, A. Borck, H., Elsen, K., "Nebraska Extension Professional Development Grant: National Ag in the Classroom, Universities, \$1,500.00. (June 2015-December 2015).

Karr, L. (Co-Principal Investigator), Luck, L. (Co-Principal Investigator), Pesek, D. (Collaborator), Benes, A. (Collaborator), "Development of An Equine and Companion Animal After-School Program for Middle School Youth," Sponsored by UNL Extension, Universities, \$7,500.00. (May 2014 - Present).

## **Service Activities and Professional Organizations**

### *Aksarben*

- Sheep and Goat Crew (2010-2020)
- Lamb Challenge Superintendent (2014-2018)
- Premier Exhibitor Judge (2010-2014)
- Beef Crew (2010-2012)

### *Community Engagement*

- *Bishop Neumann FFA Volunteer and FFA Alumni Member (2017-present)*

- *Altar Society member at St. Patrick's Catholic Church (2014-present)*
- *Carnival Committee, St. Patrick's Festival (2022-present)*
- *Cleaning Leader at St. Patrick's Catholic Church (2019-present)*
- *Agricultural Education Advisory member-North Platte FFA (2018-2020)*
- *Mentor for Ashland-Greenwood FFA (2014-2017)*

*Epsilon Sigman Phi (ESP)*

- *Member (2020-present)*

*National Association of Extension 4-H and Youth Development Professionals (NAE4HYDP)*

- *Member 2010-2022*
- *Nebraska 4-H Section President (2017)*
- *Nebraska 4-H Section Diversity Committee- Chair (2016)*

*Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association (NCEA)*

- *Deans Advisory Representative (2019-2022)*
- *NCEA Membership Committee Chair (2016)*
- *NCEA Diversity Committee Chair (2014)*
- *Member 2010-2022)*

*Nebraska Extension*

- *Search Committee member (2014-present)*
- *SE District Faculty Advisory Board (2015-2017)*
- *4-H Coach/District Mentor (2014-2017)*

*Nebraska State Fair*

- *4-H Beef Crew and Superintendent (2010-present)*
- *4-H Static Building setup team (2019-present)*
- *Largest Classroom planning committee (2018-2020)*
- *Nebraska's Largest Classroom-Animal Science Education (2010-2014)*
- *4-H Livestock Office Volunteer Coordinator (2011-2013)*

*Prosper Lincoln-Early Childhood Network*

- *Committee Member (2017)*
- *Subcommittee Member- Access to Quality Early Care and Education (2017)*

*Youth Animal Science*

- *YQCA National Board Member (2019-present)*
- *YQCA Nebraska State Contact (2019- present)*
- *Nebraska 4-H Livestock Advisory Chair (2019-present)*
- *Nebraska 4-H Fed Steer Challenge Coordinator (2018-present)*
- *Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium Committee (2018-present)*
- *Premier Animal Science Events (PASE) Superintendent (2017-present)*
- *State 4-H Horse Show Superintendent (2021-present)*
- *District Horse Show Volunteer (2021-present)*
- *State 4-H Horse Advisory Committee-State 4-H Office representative (2021-present)*
- *4-H Livestock Achievement Program Coordinator (2021-present)*
- *State Fair 4-H Management Team (2015-2017)*
- *NE 4-H YQCA Transition Team*

## **Certifications**

- *Social Media Marketing Certificate-Cornell (2022)*
- *CPR/First Aid Certificate (2022)*

- IACUC certification (2022)
- Gallup Certified Strengths Coach (2020)
- YQCA Certified Instructor (2018-present)
- Real Colors Certified Instructor (2012-2017)

## **Awards/Honors**

- Radio/Audio Program, State Winner, Nebraska 4-H Section. (November 2021).
- Excellence in Animal Science Programming (Team), State Winner, Nebraska 4-H Section. (November 2019).
- Video Program Award (Team), State Winner, Nebraska 4-H Section. (November 2019).
- Honorary Chapter Degree-service/volunteer award, Bishop Neumann FFA. (May 2017).
- Honorary Chapter Degree-service/volunteer award, Ashland Greenwood FFA. (April 2016).
- Creative Programming (Team), NCEA. (November 11, 2016).
- Excellence in Animal Science Programming (Team), NAE4HA. (October 9, 2016).
- Animal Science, Team Award- State Winner, Nebraska 4-H Section. (November 12, 2015).
- Achievement in Service Award (ASA), NAE4HA. (October 28, 2015).
- Animal Science Signature Outcome Team Outstanding Contributor, NE 4-H Section. (November 14, 2014).
- Educational Technology Team, NE State 4-H. (October 17, 2012).