



ANIMAL SCIENCE

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

# UNL POULTRY NEWS

## Upcoming Activities:

State 4-H Poultry Judging Contest—June 17, 2025. UNL Animal Science Bldg  
Nebraska Poultry Industries Board Mtg, June 26, 2025. Milford, NE.

Spring, 2025

## Newsletter Editor:

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## Congrats to the NPI Scholarship Recipients and 2025 FFA Poultry Judging Team Champs

### **Scholarship Winners**

Madison Bunger, Hildreth, NE.

Clara Preister, Monroe, NE.

Zenzile Samuels-Skinner, Lincoln, NE.

Jonah Splichal, Mitchell, NE.

Mason Stoddard, Herman, NE.

### **Champion FFA Poultry Judging Team—York, Nebraska**

Milan Babcock, Alexis Davis, Sophia Liston,

Lile Suhr

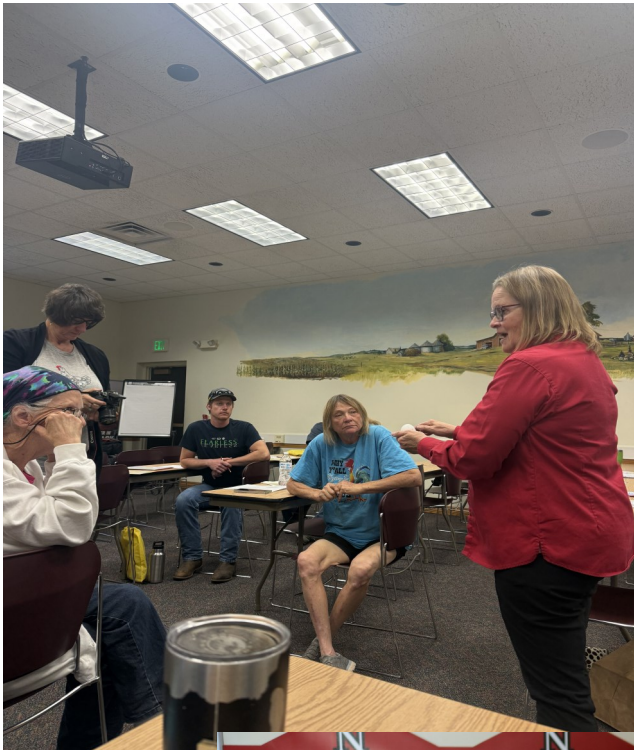
### **FFA contest Sponsors:**

LLP, chicken product donations

Farmer Cooperative,



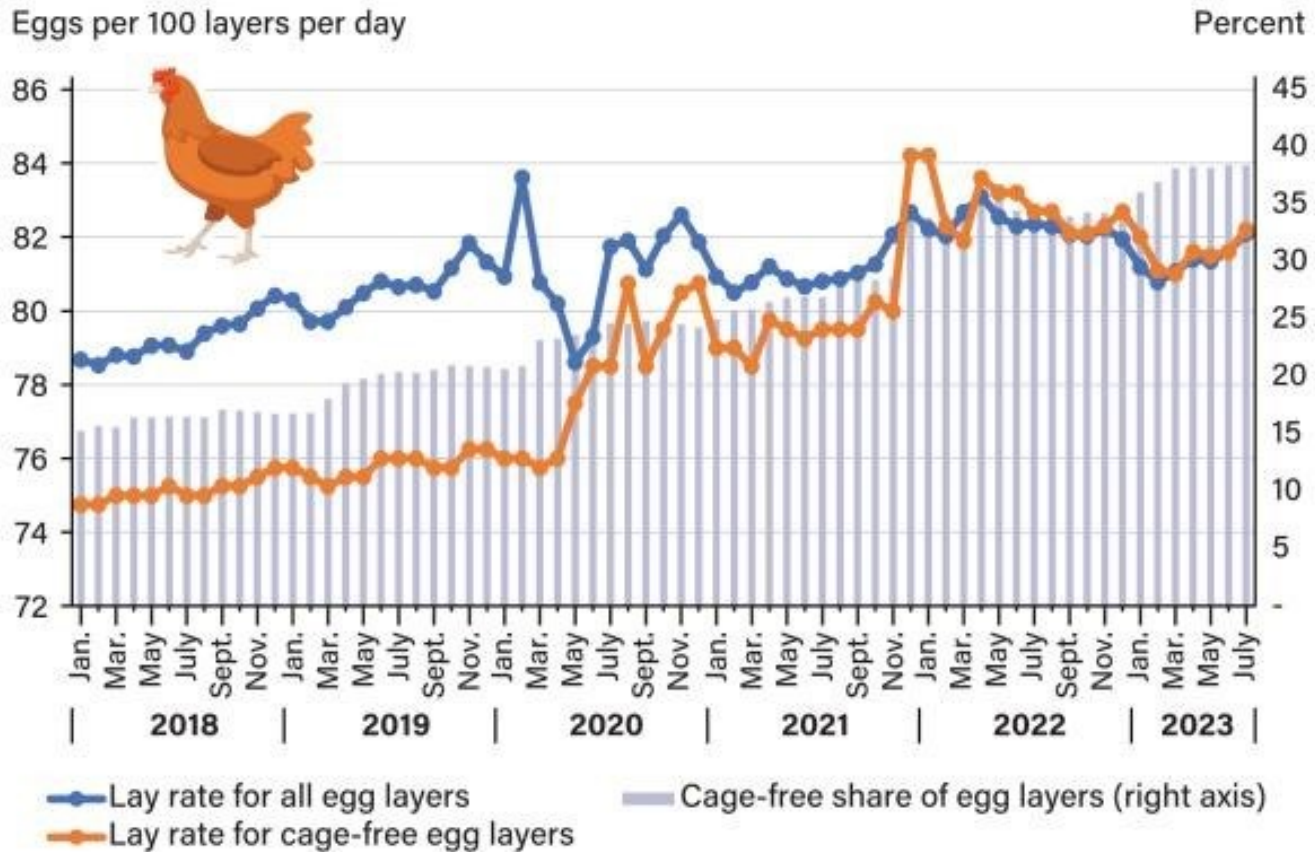
**UNL Poultry Extension** faculty were busy this Spring hosting two meetings for Backyard producers and poultry youth in FFA and 4-H—**Chick Days at UNL on March 22** and a **Backyard Poultry clinic held at the West Central Research, Extension and Education Center in North Platte, NE. on May 3rd**, speakers included *Dr. D. Reynolds, Dr. S. Purdum, Brett Kreifels, Cole Meador, and Dr. Shannon Sand*; attendance was great and feedback from attendees was very positive! Plans for 2026 include an East and West Chick Days event before FFA Convention.





## Cage-free share of U.S. egg-laying hens and lay rates, Jan. 2018–July 2023

USDA Economic Research Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Note: Data are for flocks laying table eggs, which are designated for food and not for hatching.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service and USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Data released by USDA in the *Egg Markets Overview* on April 1, 2025, confirms growth in cage-free egg production by 23.7 percent since 2015 with a corresponding decline of 37.2 percent in the U.S. caged flock. Over the period 2015 through 2025, caged hens declined in number from 256.1 million to 160.8 million while the cage-free flock increased from 37.3 million hens to 125.7 million. In 2015, cage-free hens represented 12.7 percent of hens in production but increased to 43.9 percent in April 2025. Current organic production is near 20% . Percent of the national flock in molt is less than 12%. Hens are kept in production longer without a molt rest, especially during outbreaks such as AI. Exports of shell eggs and egg products decreased during the first quarter of 2025.

### UNL Poultry Interest Team Contacts

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