**PRESS RELEASE (Before the Contest)**

**4-H SPEECH CONTEST 2013**

**Contact:**

Nebraska 4-H public speaking and presentation contests help teach youth life skills that are beneficial for a lifetime in their personal and professional lives. Developing self-confidence and effective public speaking skills are two goals of the Nebraska 4-H public speaking/presentations program for 4-H’ers age 8 to 18.

4-H members in all project areas are encouraged to give speeches to their 4-H clubs and to participate in county, regional, and state contests. The (Name of County) county contest will be held on (Date) at the (Location). To register for the contest, contact the Extension office by (Insert local phone number and web address).

Participants prepare and deliver an original speech about 4-H and/or tape a 60 second radio Public Service Announcement using the theme: *Taking the Lead*. Specific rules for the contest can be found at: <http://4h.unl.edu/web/4hcurriculum/publicspeaking>

The top three winners in each age division in both speech and PSA categories of the County Speech Contest advance to Regional competition. At the Regional Contest, Senior division speech and PSA winners will compete for the opportunity to advance to the State Speech Contest on September 2, 2013 at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island, Nebraska.

The Nebraska 4-H Public Speaking program is sponsored by the Nebraska Rural Radio Network, which includes KRVN, KNEB, and KTIC radio stations. They provide ribbons for County and Regional Contests, $25 cash awards to the participants in senior speech and PSA divisions in the State Contest and a scholarship to the top State Senior Champions, Dr. Ted and Alice Doane provide a cash award to the State Senior Reserve Champions.

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will provide a $250 scholarship to all Senior participants who compete at the State 4-H Public Speaking Contest , in the speech division this fall.