

Nebraska 4-H Alerts
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1) Order State Fair 4-H Pins – Deadline May 21, 2004

Source: State 4-H Office

The 2004 State Fair 4-H Pins have been designed; this year, we are making them available for counties to purchase for use at their county fair (some counties have denoted an interest in purchasing extra pins so that they can place them on or by the exhibits that have been selected to advance to State Fair).

The cost of the pin is approximately \$.59, plus postage; this cost may be lowered, depending on how many pins are ordered by counties and by the state.

State Fair pins can be ordered by calling Peggy Jeffries at (402) 472-9017 or by e-mail at pjeffries1@unl.edu. Orders must be placed by **Friday, May 21, 2004**. When placing your order, please be sure to mention the **county** you are from and the **quantity of pins** you would like to order. This early order deadline will ensure that the pins will be back in time for county fairs.

2) Curriculum Display Purchases – Deadline May 21, 2004

Source: Patricia Fairchild, Tracy Pracheil

A variety of full-color curriculum displays are now available for district and county Cooperative Extension offices to **purchase** (or to **borrow** on a first come, first serve basis) from the State 4-H Office!

If you would like to purchase one or more of the displays, pre-press orders must be placed by **Friday, May 21, 2004**; the order form can be found on the 4-H website under the 4-Staff options, under 4-H Curriculum Information, or at the following link:
<http://4h.unl.edu/programs/curriculum/displaypreorder.htm>. If an order is placed after this date, the prices will considerably increase. Each display item is printed on heavy-weight paper and then laminated.

If you rather borrow a display from the State 4-H Office, that is also an option. Displays may be borrowed up to two weeks and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Six displays, including an intergenerational display, a self-standing curriculum banner, a Nimlock curriculum display, and a variety of Quilt Quest posters, are available for you to use. Display information can also be found on the 4-H website under the 4-Staff options, under 4-H Curriculum Information, or at the following link:
<http://4h.unl.edu/pdf/curriculumdisplayloanprogram.pdf>

3) Nebraska 4-H Foundation GPS Geocaching Program - June 21, 2004

Source: Tracy Pracheil

The Nebraska 4-H Foundation is thrilled to announce the Nebraska 4-H Foundation GPS Geocaching Program!

The use of GPS systems for 'treasure hunting' has sparked an interest in geocaching. The goal of this project is to establish a successful county and club-based interactive geocaching programs. Each county in Nebraska will have the opportunity to place a 4-H geocache box, provided by the Nebraska 4-H Foundation, that individuals/groups from other counties, states, or countries can locate through the GPS coordinates posted on www.geocaching.com. With the popularity of geocaching and the use of GPS systems, this provides the opportunity for an educational and exciting recruitment activity for the 4-H program -- and a fairly simple way for counties to begin their involvement with this new form of technology.

In order to have a statewide geocaching system up-and-running this summer, the Marketing Committee has formed a task force who will assist with the implementation and execution of this program. To ignite excitement for the 4-H GPS Geocaching Program and to further educate 4-H youth, volunteers, and extension staff about the capabilities of the GPS unit, a training session will be held on **Monday, June 21, 2004**, from **10am-3pm** at the **Buffalo County Extension Office** in **Kearney**. This training will allow participants to learn more about GPS units, as well as how to begin geocaching in your own county.

Counties are encouraged to bring teams of youth and adults to the training to learn more about geocaching. Participants will form a cadre of experts who will return to their communities to educate others about GPS and 4-H Foundation Geocaching Program.

Further details are being finalized and will be made available soon. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for June 21 for a fun-filled and educational day of geocaching!

If you are looking for a way to recruit youth in your county to attend the GPS Geocaching training, feel free to include the following invitation in your county newsletter:

The Hunt is On . . .

Attention 4-H'ers and 4-H Volunteers – the Nebraska 4-H Foundation has announced the start of a 4-H GPS Geocaching Program in Nebraska -- and they would like your participation!

A 4-H GPS Geocaching training day is scheduled for June 21, 2004, from 10am-3pm in Kearney, Nebraska. Our county would like to send a team of youth and adults to learn more about this exciting opportunity! Contact us at the extension office for further details.

4) 4-H Livestock Ownership Affidavits

Source: Rosie Nold

This is just a reminder that the Livestock Ownership Affidavits, including Market Beef, Breeding Beef, Market Lamb, Breeding Sheep, Market Hog, Dairy, Dairy Goat and Rabbit will be due to the Animal Science Department by **June 22**. Complete guidelines for submitting the forms can be found on the 4-H web page under Livestock Show Regulations - <http://4h.unl.edu/programs/anisci/livestockshow.htm> or the 4-H Animal Science page at <http://4h.unl.edu/animalsci/ownershipprocedures.htm>. Forms must be

submitted by the deadline for members to be eligible to exhibit at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben. Please contact Rosie Nold if you have questions!

5) Introducing . . . 4-H Central

Source: Kathleen Lodl

Whittdog. Chatterbox 101. Chocolate Chip. Puppy Lover. Softballpitcher30. Jetster. Any guesses as to what the middle-school aged 4-H'ers in your county will pick as their 4-H Central screen names?

4-H Central is a website being developed for 4-H'ers (around middle-school age) to share their work and to meet with other 4-H'ers using new technology while having fun! This website was developed with the intent that 4-H'ers will be connected to other 4-H'ers their age and that they will continue to be involved with the 4-H program. The intention of the website is for it to help with retaining members in this age group, since this is the time that enrollment typically decreases.

4-H Central will be available to 4-H'ers across Nebraska near the beginning of June. It was recently piloted by 4-H'ers in Gage, Lancaster, and Seward counties. The comments, suggestions, and thoughts from these pilot groups are currently being implemented into the site.

Pink Panther participated in the table setting contest at the county fair. Armstrong worked with seeing-eye dogs as a part of a 4-H project. And Zboy enjoys the fishing and gardening 4-H projects. Stay tuned for 4-H Central details in future 4-H Alerts and in e-mailings!

6) FCS Web Update

Source: Kathleen Lodl

Many young people have been taking the FCS Web Quiz. This is GREAT! Thanks for promoting this learning opportunity!

This is a reminder to check out the "Info for Staff" page (under FCS Quiz) on the 4-H website so you will know who from your county has participated and be able to send them a ribbon. You'll find an Excel Spreadsheet, sorted by county (then last name, then date), so your work to find participants from your area should be minimal. Please note that a few participants do not have scores reported, this means they registered but did not complete the quiz. Home address information is also listed.

Here is how the quiz score points match up with each ribbon:

- Quiz Score Ribbon
- 85-100 Purple
- 70-84 Blue
- 55-69 Red
- Below 55 White

There is also a sample letter and certificate on the "Info for Staff" page to send out with the ribbons. Please feel free to use these. If your office is not planning on sending certificates and ribbons, please let Kathleen Lodl know so other arrangements can be made.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kathleen Lodl at klodl1@unl.edu or Kristin Warner at kwarn2@unl.edu.

The scores will be updated each Tuesday.

7) PASE Rules and Procedures

Source: Rosie Nold

The PASE/Life Challenge **website** has been updated for 2004. There are minimal changes in rules and procedures this year, but there are a few changes in scheduled times for contests. **All contest rule changes are highlighted in italics.** A few clarifications on dorm procedures are also highlighted. In summary, the changes/clarifications are as follows:

- **Chaperone Needs:** *This is very important!* Counties with 5 or more youth staying in the dorm on either night, must provide a county chaperone, 19 years of age or older, for that night. Counties with fewer than 5 youth, if unable to provide their own chaperone, are asked to work with another county to identify a chaperone for the youth from their county. The name of the identified chaperone is requested with pre-registration information.
- **Roommates:** University Housing will assign roommates. Roommate requests will **not** be honored, except under special circumstances such as for medical reasons.
- **Scheduling changes:** Many PASE contests are starting slightly **earlier**. See schedule for details. Please Note these **changes**: on Sunday June 27th from 7-9:00 pm First Round of Livestock Quiz Bowl (if needed). Also the Poultry and Dairy Judging contest times have been scheduled for registration at 12-12:30 pm on Monday June 28th and the Poultry Judging Contest from 12:30-3:00 pm and the Dairy Judging Contest from 12:30- 4:00 pm. The Livestock Judging Contest registration will be on Tuesday June 29th from 7:00- 7:45 am.
- **Quiz Bowl Rules:** There are minor changes/clarifications regarding reference materials for judges and only team captains answering bonus questions. In addition, the quiz bowl will feature a few “current events” type questions in each round. The resources included the online Beef magazine and Pork magazine from Dec '03 through May '04, as well as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association website, Pork Board website and American Sheep Industry Association website. (URL's are visited on the PASE webpage, Resources section). Since studying from these may appear to be overwhelming, keep these points in mind:
 - Think about major issues that has affected the livestock industry in many ways, such as
 - animal diseases
 - exports
 - animal ID
 - environment issues
 - lawsuits that have national impact
 - regulatory changes
 - For the websites, focus on recent changes
 - On the ASI website, focus on the sheep industry news link
 - On the Pork Board website, you shouldn't need to go more than one link past homepage. Some links from the homepage will open another window- what is first shown on that window is potential question material, but you don't need to go beyond that

- On the NCBA website, focus on current (<1 year) topics under food safety, research, and news links.
- **Registration Deadline:** June 11
- **Registration availability:** On-line registration is available **NOW**. The database has been updated so that all youth who were previously entered remain in the database and their age and year in school have been automatically increased by one. Nineteen year old youth have been removed from the database.
 - The website is at <http://citnews.unl.edu/pase/index.html>.
 - The login name is: **pase03life**
 - Also needed is: **PLC6307103** (Please note the capitalization on PLC.)

The following changes were implemented last year; but just as a reminder- read on:

- **Meals:** Reduction in meal and some contest fees for PASE contests. Through the generous support of the **Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) and the 4-H Foundation**, we are able to provide noon and evening meals to all contestants, volunteer helpers and staff at no charge! However, you'll see on the Fees Worksheet that the meals are TICKETED and we do need an accurate count in advance. Continental breakfasts will be available for those staying in the residence halls, but not at the contest sites.
- **Awards Program:** Expanded awards program Monday night, including presentation of the Governor's Agriculture Excellence Awards
- **Activities:** Expanded social activities (dance, games, ice cream social) on Sunday and Monday night
- **Contests:** Addition of Chicken and Turkey BBQ and Egg Demo contests
- **Scholarships:** Through the support of CASNR and the UNL Animal Science Department, we are able to offer the following scholarships: A **\$500** scholarship to the high individual in each state judging and identification contest that has over 25 individuals. A **\$250** scholarship to each team member of the Champion General Livestock Quiz Bowl team. We are excited that former winners are now utilizing these scholarships as current students at UNL. For more information please visit: <http://4h.unl.edu/animalsci/scholarshipspublic.htm>
- **County Registration:** Teams are registered by county only - there are no EPU teams. While a team may include contestants from more than one county, the team must still be entered by a single county name. Contest rules specifically state *"Teams may be entered by a single county or extension unit name. In the event that a county/unit does not have enough members to complete a team, team members may be added from other counties/units. However, the county/unit entering the team should not solicit team members without the knowledge and support of extension staff of the counties/units from which other team members are being recruited. For teams with members from more than one county/unit, the different counties/units must be adjacent."*
 - Contact Kathleen Lodl (Life Challenge) or Rosie Nold (PASE) if you have questions.
- **Rules for Past Winners:** Rules for some past winners have changed. Winners of past contests that have not competed in *the designated* national contest can compete again at the state level. Also, those that have traveled to a national event based on their individual placing can still

compete on a state level team. For more details check the 4-H Policy Handbook at:
<http://4h.unl.edu/policy/competitiveevents.htm>, OR the PASE/Life Challenge website at:
<http://citnews.unl.edu/pase/booklet/4hgen.html>.