

Animal Science Opportunities

Livestock Grooming Clinic

A livestock show clinic will be held on January 5th from 9:00 a.m. - noon at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds in Geneva, NE. This is a free hands-on clinic for understanding the basics of grooming and showing beef, sheep and swine at the county fair. Coffee, rolls and juice will be available in the morning, with a lunch to follow in Ag Hall at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds. To register, contact the Fillmore County Extension Office at (402) 759-3712 A flyer can be found at the following link: <http://www.fillmore.unl.edu/fourH/jan08livestockclinic>

Lambing & Kidding School Basics

Beginning producers lambing or kidding a farm flock face many challenges. This school will provide an overview of preparing and birthing a farm flock of ewes or does. The program begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Hall County Extension in Grand Island. There is a \$20.00 fee for the first person and \$10.00 for the second person from the same operation. Contact the UNL Extension in Dodge County for a registration form.

Beef Weigh Day

The Dodge County Market Beef Weigh Day has been scheduled for Saturday, February 2, 2008 from 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. The event will be held at the Masonic Home for Children in Fremont. To cover the costs of the ear tags, 4-H members will be charged \$1.00 per ear tag and \$6 per DNA hair samples (required for Nebraska State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Livestock Expo). In addition, FFA students need to bring official FFA tags that can be acquired through their FFA Advisors. If market beef are not weighed on February 2 in Fremont, they will be ineligible to participate in the Rate of Gain contest at the Dodge County Fair.

4-H Horse Equestrian Academy

The 2008 Equestrian Academy provided by University of Nebraska and Purina Mills will be held every Tuesday night January 22-February 26 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The program is held at UNL east Campus in Chase Hall. You may also contact the UNL Extension in Dodge County for satellite viewing sites or purchase the DVD's. The live class or satellite is \$60 per participant or \$15 each session. To purchase the whole course on DVD is \$75 or \$20 for each session (plus shipping). For more information and a list of topics on the Equestrian Academy visit: <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/equine/4H/programs/eqAcademyflyer08.pdf>

2008 4-H Horse Stampede

The 4-H Horse Stampede is scheduled for Saturday, March 8 at the Animal Science building on the UNL East Campus. If you would like to participate in Horse Bowl, public speaking, demonstrations or other contests offered at the Stampede, please contact the Extension office. This event is fun and looks great on Scholarship and College applications. For more information refer to <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/equine/4H/stampede/schedule.html>. Entries are due February 1, 2008.

Horsin Around '08

This is a two-day conference featuring Bill and Tina Kaven. The program will be held in the RB Warren Arena in the UNL Animal Science Building on East Campus on February 9 and 10. Advance registrations will open on January 2, 2008. The conference will be limited to the first 450 paid registrations. The past conferences have sold out, so send your registrations immediately. This conference is open to the public and anyone may attend! Pre-registration is \$25 for adults for both days or \$15 /day. Youth is \$15 for both days or \$10/day. Contact the UNL Extension in Dodge County for a registration form or visit <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/equine/producer/horsinaround/horsinaroundreg07.pdf>

4-H Horse Show Judges

All current Nebraska 4-H Horse Show Judges must re-certify once every 3 years. All judges are required to pass (80%) a written rule book exam each time they re-certify. There are two options to re-certify:

Option 1:

Attend a Judges Seminar in person on March 28, 2008 Hall County Extension office, Grand Island, NE from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. To fill out the application go to <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/equine/4H/judges/judgingapplication2.pdf>. A required written exam will be given. Registrations close on March 21, 2008. There will be a \$25 fee for the seminar

Option 2:

Option 2 includes a self study, a DVD is available for viewing, and there is a \$25 fee for self study. The closed book exam must be taken to be placed or remain on judges list. The exam has a \$20 exam fee and to take the exam you must make arrangements made with the UNL Extension Office in Dodge County.

Ak-Sar-Ben Results on the Web

The results for the 2007 Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Expo are on the web at http://www.frnmedia.net/aksarben/ribbon_mgr_menu.asp

District and State 4-H Horse Show Dates

The District 4-H Horse show will be during the weeks of June 9 and 16. The dates are:

- June 11 Oakland
- June 12 Broken Bow
- June 13 York
- June 17 Mitchell
- June 18 McCook
- June 19 O'Neil

As in 2007, English trophies will be offered at all 6 shows. The State 4-H Horse Show will be held July 14-17. All entries due to the UNL Extension in Dodge County office on May 15, 2008.

Funding for Ag Youth Projects

Farm Credit Services of America (FCS America) will help students to obtain financing up to \$2500 for 4-H and FFA production projects. Loans are available to be used for production projects that will be repaid within an annual production cycle, including feeder pigs, feeder calves and feeder lambs. Other types of projects will also be considered. For more information on this loan program go to www.fcsamerica.com.

UPDATE for 2008 4-H Livestock Identification

In addition to the visual identification of market animals, hair samples for DNA will also be required at the State Fair in 2008. The Nebraska 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee made the decision (motion was passed) that *“Nebraska 4-H use DNA on all market animals, including beef, sheep, swine and meat goats for 2008. This applies for animals nominated for State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.”*

The Nebraska 4-H program will cooperate with Ak-Sar-Ben using DNA identification. For one cost of \$6 per sample, each animal will be qualified for State Fair and/or Ak-Sar-Ben. Ak-Sar-Ben will handle all samples in terms of sending out materials and receiving back envelopes and dollars, with no additional charge to Nebraska 4-H. In other words, hair samples for DNA must be taken and sent in for animals to be eligible to be exhibited at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben, and nose prints will not be required starting in 2008.

Quality Assurance Certification in 2008

The Nebraska 4-H Program is REQUIRING 4-H Member (8-18 years old) exhibiting beef, bucket calves, sheep, swine, diary cattle and goats be trained or tested in Quality Assurance. In 2002, this program was mandated by the Nebraska 4-H program and was implemented into the Dodge County 4-H Program. Several 4-H and FFA members took part in the testing and training process in the past. Listed below are the 2008 Certification Requirements based on the 4-H/FFA member’s age on January 1, 2008.

4-H/FFA Livestock Project Members

- 8-11 years..... Attend Training
- 12-14..... Take/Pass Intermediate Test (once passed, certification is no longer required) OR attend training.
- 15-18..... Take/Pass Senior Test (Once passed, certification is no longer required OR attend training.

More information regarding the testing procedures and training dates for the Quality Assurance Program will be available for this spring. For general information or questions, contact the Dodge County Extension Office at 402-727-2775 or go to <http://citnews.unl.edu/assuringquality>. This is also the website for the Intermediate and Senior level 4-Hers who would like to take the practice test.

<p><u>2008 Dodge County 4-H Council</u></p> <p>Kris Dvorak Annette Ebel Ron Giesselman Tessa Harms Cyndi Horvatic Mary Jo Kreikemeier Samantha Kreikemeier Sara Ness Ruth Ready Steven Ready Joan Ruskamp Jean Schafersman Seth Schafersman Hannah Schroeder Jay Schroeder Kristin Witte</p>
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