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Young Students Head Off to School...and 4-H

If a child is ready for Kindergarten, he is also ready for 4-H! Even parents of children as young as five years old find that there are many activities to occupy students' time, but participating in 4-H really pays off.

"If they get started young, they learn the value of community service and are more willing to be involved later on in life," said Kerilyn Mersch, leader of Clover Power, a Clover Kids 4-H club in Hamilton County, Nebraska.



Clover Kids 4-H membership, either in a separate club or a regular club with older siblings, lets children ages 5 to 7 experience 4-H with hands-on projects tailored for younger participants. In addition to a variety of workshops, Clover Power members have been active in several community service projects, such as recycling, assisting with an area bike trail, and distributing county fair produce to senior centers.

Mersch notes that early involvement results in 4-H remaining a priority later on, when other activities such as sports compete for kids' time and attention. "They're more likely to stay involved with 4-H if they start at a young age."

Why I Serve....4-H Swine Project

Win \$1000 for your county's 4-H!

Share your experiences in 4-H and be entered to win \$1000 for the county 4-H program of your choice!

[Submit your story here to be entered!](#)

See you at the State Fair!

The Nebraska 4-H Foundation is excited to see you at the 2011 Nebraska State Fair, August 26 through September 5 in Grand Island!

Nebraska 4-H Alumni can tell stories about their time in 4-H on camera, check out decade boards which will reconnect 4-H'ers from different decades, and enjoy cake and ice cream at the 4-H alumni reception **Saturday, September 3rd from 3-5 p.m.**

Leads to Leadership

Cory Bergt, President of the Nebraska 4-H Foundation's Board of Directors, traces his success back to a swine project he was involved in with the Liberty Hill 4-H Club. Raising pigs for the county fair led to owning a livestock enterprise, and income from that venture provided funds he needed to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



"When I was asked to serve as a Trustee for the Nebraska 4-H Foundation, I felt it was a great opportunity to give back to the organization that helped me start my first business," said Bergt.

While proud of the Foundation's accomplishments, Bergt said there is more work to be done, particularly since public funding has been declining.

"The private dollars raised by the Nebraska 4-H Foundation are critical for the future of 4-H. We want today's youth to have the same opportunities that 4-H gave me. You never know what project or idea might lead to the next small business or career opportunity."

Pulling for 4-H



Tired of golf? Take a shot at this: The Nebraska 4-H Foundation's 7th annual Pulling for 4-H charity shoot at the Oak Creek Sporting Club near Brainard on September 22, 2011. "This is not your typical 'golf scramble' fundraiser," notes event chair Troy Hansen. "This is a unique event that celebrates the shooting sports."

Hansen describes the shooting event as "an opportunity to gather shooting sports enthusiasts together, celebrate the sport, meet some new friends and raise some money for the Foundation."

For Hansen, his involvement is meaningful. "Growing up in rural Nebraska and being part of 4-H are both things that I am proud of. Like many other rural kids, I was shooting a shotgun long before I ever swung a golf club. The charity shoot is a great way for many of us to

SAVE THE DATE!

**Join us for the 13th
Annual Trail Ride**

October 7- 9, 2011
Nebraska National Forest,
Halsey, NE

Enjoy scenic rides through
the Sandhills and the
Nebraska National Forest.

For Be a part of this
spectacular weekend of
good food, scenic rides and
loads of fun.

Registration information
coming soon to

www.ne4hfoundation.org

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reconnect with our rural roots while doing something great for the youth in Nebraska."

See more details on our [website](#).

National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational Will Bring Youth to Grand Island

Set your sights on June 17-22, 2012 and June 23-28, 2013. That's when Nebraska will host two National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational Matches at the Heartland Public Shooting Park and Heartland Events Center in Grand Island.



"This is the top event in the country for 4-H Shooting Sports," notes Steve Pritchard, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Educator and coordinator of Nebraska's 4-H shooting sports program.

4-H youth, ages 14-18, from across the nation will compete. The event includes 27 events in nine discipline areas: small bore rifle, small bore pistol, muzzleloading, shotgun, air pistol, air rifle, hunting skills, recurve archery and compound archery.

States can send nine teams (a maximum of 36 youth), and Nebraska will be represented in next year's competition. "This past year, over 450 participants from 30 states competed in the three-day competition held in San Antonio, Texas," said Pritchard.

More details will be available [online](#). The free event is open to the public.

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