

## **Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards Information**

The Nebraska 4-H Foundation and the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) are pleased to again offer The Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) which recognize 4-H clubs for the work of the individuals in the club and the community service work of the entire club. Twenty-five clubs have been recognized each year since 1997. Recognition is in the form of \$500 checks issued to the club's treasury to be used as described in the award application form completed by the club. A public presentation is made to representatives of the club by the Governor of Nebraska and NIFA officials.

Clubs may use the award dollars for many different programs. Conferences or workshops for others in the community, trips or tours for club members, community improvement projects in their home town, campus visits, fair grounds enhancement, inter-generational programs, and the development of a youth council are just a few examples of the ways the award can be used. While the majority of the clubs choose a project that benefits many others in their community some have chosen to celebrate their success by providing more experiences for club members.

**Applications are available on-line at [www.ne4hfoundation.org](http://www.ne4hfoundation.org)** Any club that hasn't received a Governor's Agriculture Excellence Award for the past two consecutive years is eligible to apply. We will be accepting applications by e-mail only; the application deadline is **March 2, 2012**. Email applications to the 4-H Foundation office at [4hfoundation@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:4hfoundation@unlnotes.unl.edu). ***Please indicate in the subject line that it is a Governor's Ag Excellence Application.*** All applications will be e-mailed to the District offices on April 17, 2012. Each district office will select four winners and notify the 4-H Foundation of their selections by April 30, 2012. A minimum of four clubs will be chosen from each district with nine of the awards being selected from clubs remaining after the top sixteen are chosen. Counties and clubs will receive award notification by May 15, 2012. In 2012, the Governor's Agriculture Excellence Awards will be presented during the evening picnic of the PASE/Life Challenge Event. This will be held on **June 25** at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's East Campus.

Please consider "Agricultural" in the broadest terms when you are discussing this program. The intent is to increase 4-H'ers' awareness of agricultural careers and entice some of them into such careers. Individuals interested in a broad range of subjects including: Food Science, Chemistry, Economics, Animal Science, Biology, Law, Sociology and many others may not realize that an agricultural career is a viable option. This is an opportunity for 4-H to support our agricultural roots while we help 4-H members expand the career possibilities they are considering. Clubs are eligible regardless of their geographic location. Clubs in urban and rural areas of Nebraska should be encouraged to apply.

If you have any questions please contact Sinda Dux at the Nebraska 4-H Foundation at [sdux2@unl.edu](mailto:sdux2@unl.edu) or at (402) 472-1178.