

# »»» OTOE COUNTY «««

# TIPS ON TAP

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## Tips is Changing

In an effort to increase reach, streamline office processes, and reduce waste, **Otoe County Extension's Tips on Tap will now be offered electronically.**

Much work has gone into this transition in order to make it as smooth as possible, and **February's Tips on Tap will be the last paper version that will be mailed out.** If you are an enrolled 4-H member, you will continue to receive your Tips through 4-H Online until all families' emails are entered into the listserv. Once that is complete, you should plan to find your Tips in a message from a county staff member with [Otoe County Extension] in the subject line. You do NOT need to subscribe individually as office staff will do mass subscriptions.

*If you receive Tips on Tap because of other connections with the Otoe County Extension Office, you are asked to subscribe to the list by sending a message to [otoecoext-join@lists.unl.edu](mailto:otoecoext-join@lists.unl.edu) with the word "subscribe" written in the subject line. OR, try the QR code below.*

If you know of others that would like to stay connected to Otoe County Extension & Otoe County 4-H, share the instructions with them as well or direct them to the "Connect with Us" tab on our website [otoe.unl.edu](http://otoe.unl.edu). We would love to increase our reach!

If you would still prefer to have a paper copy mailed to your home, please call the Extension Office at 402.269.2301 to be put on the mailing list.



## Leader's Corner

Leaders,

Happy New Year!

A few reminders for the beginning of this year:

- Please RSVP to me if you plan to attend the Leader Enrichment Night on February 5th
  - See last month's Tips on Tap, Facebook, or this week's Wednesday What Nots for more details!
- Remind your 4-H members about early 2025 dates
  - Beef Weigh-In's: January 25th from 9 am to 11:30 am → please note the slight time change from 2024
  - Otoe County 4-H Foundation Banquet: February 1st
    - If you know a Senior level 4-H member that is interested in applying to be an Otoe County 4-H Foundation board member, please encourage them to complete the digital application form that is linked on Wednesday What-Nots newsletter and submit it by Tuesday, January 7, 2025.
- Stay tuned for a spring workshop announcement and YQCA dates in the weekly newsletters!

Thank you for all of the time and hard work that you invest in the youth of Otoe County!

Stephanie



## Beef Weigh-In 2025

Beef Weigh-In & Tagging is set for Saturday, **January 25th from 9:00-11:30** at the Kimmel Arena.

- All market beef animals for both 4-H & FFA should attend this event, including all Bucket Calf +1 calves.
- Tags are \$3 each-cash or check.
- Must be at weigh-in to participate in the Rate of Gain contest!
- DNA samples will be collected for anyone wishing to exhibit animals at either the Nebraska State Fair or Aksarben.

**SORRY  
WE'RE  
CLOSED**

The Extension Office will be closed on the following dates in January & February:

- Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, February 17th for President's Day

**DON'T FORGET**

4-H Club Treasurer's Reports are due to the county extension office on or before January 31st. The form can be found on our newly updated [website](#) under 4-H > 4-H Resources > Volunteer & Leader Resources, or by clicking [HERE!](#)

## 2025 Hort Judging Contest

Do you know what it takes to pick the best fruit and vegetables out at the grocery store? Or do you know what judges are looking for when they judge your plants at the county fair? Have you ever wondered, what plant is that!?! We are excited to offer the opportunity to learn these and other important horticulture skills through the Online Horticulture Contest. The contest will be available June 10-24, 2025 at: <http://go.unl.edu/online4hhortcontest>



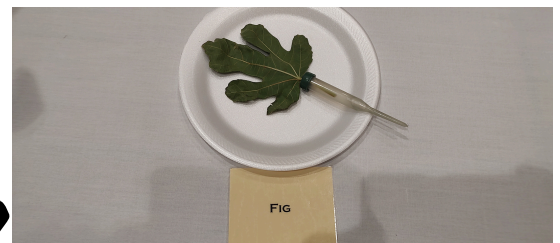
## Senior Scholarship Opportunities

There are three scholarships available from the Otoe County 4-H Foundation.

- **Otoe County 4-H Foundation Scholarship** - up to 5 winners of \$1500 Scholarship
- **Miyoshi Family Leadership Scholarship** - 1 winner of a \$1000 Scholarship
- **Gigstad Family 4-H Scholarship** - 1 winner of a \$1000 scholarship

The information has been mailed to all families of Seniors. You can also find the information and forms at the Extension Office and on [our website](#) under 4-H > 4-H Resources > Awards & Recognition or by clicking [HERE](#).

Applications are due back to the EXTENSION OFFICE by **January 7th, 2025**.



Where can I find the current and past electronic copies of Tips on Tap? Look on the [otoe.unl.edu](http://otoe.unl.edu) website: 4-H > Otoe County 4-H News & Events Scroll to the bottom to find both the weekly 4-H newsletter and the monthly Extension newsletter.

# 2025 Special Garden Project

The focus of the 2025 Special Garden Project is the Goldie Husk Cherry. This old-fashioned fruit from the tomato family has sweet berries inside golden husks. The fruits have many uses and can be eaten raw, dried, frozen, canned, or made into tasty treats like pies, desserts, or preserves.

This project is open to all youth of 4-H ages 5-18 and it will give them the opportunity to learn about growing, harvesting, and exhibiting this unique fruit. The Special Gardening Project lets 4-H members try herbs. The project allows experienced 4-H gardeners to grow something fun, new, and different while letting those new to gardening get their feet wet in this project area.

4-H members participating in the Special Garden Project will:

- Receive a 'packet' of Goldie Husk Cherry (one packet per youth) in March/April
- Receive a newsletter about:
  - Planting & growing husk cherry
  - Husk cherry problems & insects
  - Harvesting & using husk cherry
- Be able to exhibit this unique fruit at County and State Fair!



**Register for your seed packet by January 31st in [4HOnline.com](http://4HOnline.com) using the Events tab. You must be enrolled in the 2025 4-H year to register for a seed packet. Please also choose Horticulture as a Project Area when you enroll. A special THANK YOU to the 4-H Council for financially supporting the purchase of the seeds!**

**4-H HORSE STAMPEDE**  
DATE: MARCH 29 - 30, 2025

CONTEST RULES AND ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT:  
[HTTPS://4H.UNL.EDU/HORSE STAMPEDE](https://4h.unl.edu/horse-stampede)

**CONTESTS:**

- PUBLIC SPEAKING
- DEMONSTRATION
- ART (2D/3D)
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- HORSE BOWL

**NEW AS OF 2025:**

- HORSE JUDGING
- HIPPOLOGY

LOCATED AT UNL AT THE ANIMAL SCIENCE COMPLEX

**YOUTH AGES 10-18**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LENA LUCK:  
[LENA.LUCK@UNL.EDU](mailto:LENA.LUCK@UNL.EDU)

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**INNOVATIVE YOUTH CORN CHALLENGE**

- Can you improve corn yields to meet the growing global demand?
- Open to 4-H & FFA members
- Over \$2,000 in cash prizes awarded!
- Network with agronomic professionals!
- Access to valuable corn resource materials!

Deadline to enter the contest: **April 1st**  
Download entry forms at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth>

start the innovation

For more info, call 402-759-3712.  
Sponsored by: **Nebraska Corn Board** and **EXTENSION**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES! ZOOM IN TO ASK QUESTIONS AND HEAR ABOUT OUR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES!

**ZOOM IN TO CASNR**

[GO.UNL.EDU/VB25](http://GO.UNL.EDU/VB25)

**NOVEMBER 25**  
7 P.M. CST

**FEBRUARY 24**  
7 P.M. CST

**DECEMBER 30**  
7 P.M. CST

**MARCH 31**  
7 P.M. CST

**JANUARY 27**  
7 P.M. CST

**APRIL 28**  
7 P.M. CST

# Wider Extension Opportunities



The FREE Agricultural Budget Calculator (ABC) program is designed to assist ag producers in determining the cost of production and projected cash and economic returns for their various farm and ranch enterprises.

Check it out at [cap.unl.edu/abc](http://cap.unl.edu/abc)



## 2025 Crop Watch Production Clinics

The 2025 Nebraska Crop Production Clinics will feature live presentations and present research updates and information tailored to regional crop issues and grower interests. Sponsored by Nebraska Extension, the programs will be held on eight days throughout January, with the final clinic offered on Tuesday, Jan. 28. The clinic on Jan. 28 will be in partnership with the Nebraska Agribusiness Association Expo and will include free admission to the Expo tradeshow.

2025 Clinic Dates and Locations within two hours of Otoe County...

- Jan. 15 — Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center (ENREEC), Ithaca
- Jan. 17 — Holiday Inn Express, Beatrice
- Jan. 22 — Lochland Country Club, Hastings
- Jan. 24 — Holthus Convention Center, York
- Jan. 28 — Younes Conference Center, Kearney at the Nebraska Agribusiness Association Expo

Visit the [Crop Production Clinics 2025 website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Registration is available online for each location. Pre-registration is required and costs \$95.

Certified Crop Advisor credits will be available in crop production, nutrient management, integrated pest management, soil and water management. The clinics will offer commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicators an opportunity to renew their licenses in the general standards, ag plant and demonstration/research categories. The clinics are also a venue for private pesticide applicators to renew their licenses.

For more information, contact, Bob Wright clinics coordinator and Entomology Professor Emeritus, via [email](#) or at 402-472-2128. Registration questions can be directed to Connie Hansen, 402-472-8747.

