

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of
News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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Downing Ranch Hosts 2024 Sandhill Ranch Intern



COURTESY

Pictured above are this year's Sandhills Ranch Interns, front row, l-r: Dailyn Zierolf, Basin, WY, Plum Thicket Farms, Gordon. Kirstin Cawthra, Benkelman, NE, Brennemann Land & Cattle, Valentine. Morgan Townshend, Plymouth, MN, Bow & Arrow Ranch, Valentine. Haileigh Moutray, Stromsburg, NE, Bow & Arrow Ranch, Valentine. Caiden Flynn, Fort Collins, CO, Dry Cedar Ranch, Ericson. Jeffery Forsen, Mullen, NE, Apache Ranch, Hyannis.

Back row, l-r: Sam and Elise (visiting interns), Nieslon Ranch Co. Ellsworth. Ben Weinandt, Battle Creek, NE, Wellnitz Ranch, Cody. Drake Treffeisen, Lake Panasoffkee, FL, Palmer Ranch, Ewing. James Ady, North Platte, NE, Seidler Ranch, Alliance. Keaton Wiske, Medicine Lodge, KS, Downing Ranch, Dunning. Reese Frank, Centennial, CO, Haythorn Land & Cattle Co., Arthur.

The 2024 Sandhills Ranch Interns have officially started their summer internships. In its second year of the Sandhills Ranch Internship Program, The Sandhills Task Force has successfully connected eleven interns with key ranchers across Nebraska. The number of strong candidates applying for the program has been exceptional, and we are especially excited about the interns this year.

The goal of the Sandhills Ranch Internship Program is to partner with dedicated and skilled ranchers to provide quality educational opportunities to the next generation of individuals interested in ranching, livestock production, and rangeland management. These internships provide students with valuable on-the-ground experience to help them develop skills, gain knowledge, and acquire insight into an operation's decision-making and management.

Internships allow participants to explore an interest in the industry, develop a network, and gain mentors. The ranching industry and community also benefit. Mentors gain extra help while inspiring and investing in the next generation. Meaningful connections are built, creating lifelong relationships with talented people who are interested in the ranching industry and more prepared to enter the workforce.

The Sandhills Ranch Internships are paid, summer-long, and include room and board. The interns also have the opportunity to attend an educational workshop of

their choosing. On their first day, interns gathered for a training meeting in Mullen, giving them an opportunity for networking and preparation for the upcoming months.

As soon as they arrive on location, ranch mentors work with interns to determine their skill set and develop goals for strengthening skills needed for the operation as well as those desired by the intern. At the end of the internship, another assessment is completed to review the season's learning, which helps the intern determine what type of learning opportunity or career to pursue.

If you see these interns out in your community, take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself. Whether it is advice on where to eat, community events, or just a friendly chat, your welcoming support and small gestures are invaluable and appreciated.

To read more about the Sandhills Ranch Internship Program, visit www.sandhillstaskforce.org/ranch-internship.

Wiske To Intern At Downing Ranch

Keaton Wiske, a student at Kansas State University studying Agronomy, Rangeland Management, and Animal Science, has a rich background in agriculture. He grew up in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, where he was actively involved in 4-H and FFA. His passion for agriculture led him to participate in livestock shows and crop and livestock judging competitions. These experiences have shaped his desire to seize any learning opportunity

that comes his way. This summer, he will be interning at Downing Ranch with Tim and Bonnie Downing near Dunning.

Keaton's decision to pursue a Sandhills Ranch Internship is driven by his eagerness to learn and grow. The Sandhills, a place he has always wanted to experience, presents unique challenges in ranching. He sees this internship as a steppingstone to broaden his horizons and develop a more well-rounded skillset in rotational grazing and regenerative agriculture, which he believes will be crucial in the future of agriculture and ranching. "I am very interested in the grazing aspect of animal agriculture, particularly in stockers and regenerative systems. I believe that land and ecosystem health can be significantly improved with these types of systems," he shared. Keaton is excited to experience a different place and ecosystem. He appreciates the opportunity and is eager to learn about the stocker market and its dynamics.

After completing his internship, Keaton will return to Manhattan to complete his studies and earn his Range Management Degree from Kansas State University. He then intends to seek out a new work opportunity, possibly in a different location, for a year. His ultimate goal is to pursue a master's degree in Western Ranch Management and Environmental Stewardship from Colorado State University, a testament to his ambition and commitment to his career.

Garza New Purdum Postmaster

Connie Garza has been appointed Purdum Postmaster effective June 1. Garza became officer in charge on March 11 after the retirement of Teresa Kennedy. The Purdum Post Office has one carrier, T.J. Hamilton.

Garza started with the USPS in the Stapleton Post Office in April of 2022 as a parttime flex clerk. She worked under then Stapleton Postmaster Judy Mulligan. Garza also worked in post offices in Arnold, Tryon, Mullen and Thedford.

Connie and her husband, Xavier and daughter, Bella, live in Seneca. Bella is taking over KoKo's Palace in Mullen, a doggy day care that offers grooming and boarding. The Garzas have also recently started Standing Oak Landscape and Construction.



COURTESY

FCCLA Chapter Sending Students To Nationals



COURTESY

Pictured above are the ten ladies that went to State FCCLA conference. Front row, l-r: Sponsor Miss Franzen, Abby Peden, Katen Licking, Lola Rowse, Natalie Deines and Laney Dahlberg. Back row, l-r: Kloey DeNaeyer, Jordyn DeNaeyer, Chandler Pettit, Shylee Gonzales and Brooklyn DeNaeyer. Katen, Lola, Natalie, Laney, Kloey, Chandler and Brooklyn will also be attending National Conference.

TERRI LICKING

May 13 saw 10 members of the Thedford FCCLA (Future Career, and Community Leaders of America) showcase their STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) presentations.

Some 90 schools with over 570 students were at the FCCLA state conference in early April where seven of the 10 ladies won first or second with their presentation to earn the chance to present at the FCCLA National conference in Seattle, June 29

to July 3.

Results of how the students did at the state conference are:

Kloey DeNaeyer - Champion in Chapter Service Project Display.

Brooklyn DeNaeyer - Runner up Career Investigation Level 2.

Laney Dahlberg - Champion Food Innovation Level 2.

Chandler Pettit - Runner-up Job Interview Level 1.

Katen Licking - Runner-up Repurpose and Redesign Level 2.

Natalie Deines - Champion Sustainability Challenge Level 2.

Lola Rowse - Champion Say Yes to FCA Level 3; Lola also received the Lisa Groth Memorial FCCLA Scholarship for \$2000.

The chapter received the Red, White Award, as the chapter having a high number of FCCLA members in FCS classes and Gold Community ServUS award. Their sponsor, Miss Mikayla Franzen accepted an ACE Award (Advisors Committed to Excellence).

Resources available to help fish beneath Nebraska skies

No matter where you decide to fish in Nebraska, you can count on landing a great outing when you fish beneath Nebraska skies.

To help prepare for any fishing adventure, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has several online resources available. For example:

Fishing Guide

The annual Fishing Guide, released each January by the Nebraska Game and Parks, can either be viewed online or downloaded to your computer or mobile device. You also may pick up a printed copy wherever permits are sold. This helpful booklet contains

a summary of regulations, a section on public fishing areas and much more useful information.

Find a place to fish

Nebraska's landscape is dotted with lakes, rivers and streams, providing plentiful and diverse fishing for experienced anglers, beginners and everyone in between. With about 450 lakes and streams open to public fishing in the state, deciding where to fish sometimes can be challenging. Find a spot using Game and Parks' resources, including an interactive public waters map, lake contour maps, Missouri River Access Guide, and Public Access Atlas.

Fishing Forecast

Is it hard to find a lake to fish based on the type of fish you like to cast for most often? Explore the annual Fishing Forecast, which contains research statistics and graphs to explain sampling information for important sport fish species sampled across Nebraska from the previous year.

Accessible fishing spots

Whether you want to catch trout, bass, bluegill, northern pike or catfish, a lake near you with fishing accommodations likely will include one or several of these fish

ACE Camp Pairs Natural Resources With Summer Fun

Whether it's a reptile wrapped around a wrist or a cool splash in the North Loup River, Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) has something to offer this summer. Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) are now accepting registrations for ACE Camp June 23rd-26th, 2024, at Kamp Kaleo near Burwell, Nebraska.

Nebraska's 23 NRDs encourage middle school students interested in the outdoors to sign up for

this educational, action-packed camp. To qualify, students should have completed sixth or seventh grade in the 2023-2024 school year.

The four-day adventure camp provides students an opportunity to dive into different hands-on activities with a focus on natural resources. Sessions educate youth on Nebraska's water resources, wildlife, soil, trees, range and grasslands, technology and more. ACE Camp gets stu-

dents outdoors to explore the world around them. Campers also have the opportunity to tube the river, experience archery, fishing and much more.

Fees and registration are \$235/camper. Registrants are encouraged to check with the Upper Loup NRD for scholarship opportunities. The online registration form can be found at www.upperloupnrd.org/youth-camps.

Registration deadline is June 7, 2024