



## County Fair Hog Show...Covid 19 Style!

Written By: Mitchel Sump

Like most things this year there was a great deal of uncertainty about livestock shows at county fairs. The confusion weighed on many people from county fair boards on down but where I saw it play out was on my sixteen year old son, John.

John is an eight year member of the Pick-A-Pig 4-H Club in Lancaster County and loves showing hogs. Now I know similar things could be said by many reading this about children or maybe grandchildren but for John and his fellow club members things are a bit different. Pick-A-Pig was started and is led by Harry and Lois Muhlback and the majority of its members are from Lincoln. Harry, the county fair swine superintendent, wanted an opportunity for city kids to show livestock other than rabbits, chickens, or household pets when he started the club and generously offered the use of his farm and experience. So John and most of the club only have indirect ties to agriculture and their commitment to show prep is different from other 4-H members whose family business is hogs.

The club went on like it does every year with precautions like limiting the number of people at meetings, wearing of masks, and so on but through the whole thing there was doubt about was it all going to be for nothing. Harry and Lois had discussed with several parents about doing a club show, we have 43 members, in the event the county fair didn't go but even with that as a fallback I saw a difference in John and some of the older members from previous years. They continued to work with their hogs and do everything you need to do to get them ready but always unsure if their efforts would be for nothing. Difficult to get excited about hard work not knowing if you will get a chance to show the results!

Long story short the show went on in compacted form, one day to do everything versus three, and was a great success. Everyone who participated in the show was exhausted by the end of the day but the hard work of the members and their hogs was rewarded which is what everyone wanted.

As a new NACEB member when I am speaking to people about the importance of our organization I like to point out all the things that county extension boards do for communities and how our association supports and strengthens them. Strong extension boards can do so much for the residents of our great state. Although our efforts go far beyond a simple county fair hog show I think this is a great example of what like-minded people can do when they roll up their sleeves and work together, even in uncertain times.

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### Meet Your Directors!

#### NACEB Spotlight: Brenda Corman

Brenda Corman has been part of NACEB as a director since she joined in 2019. She represents Zone 10, which consists of Adams, Webster, Clay, Nuckolls, Fillmore, Thayer, Saline, and Jefferson counties.

Brenda and her husband Will currently farm in Nuckolls County and reside in Superior, Nebraska with their two children. She Graduated from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln with a degree in Agricultural Economics and has worked for seed corn production and sales.

#### My Extension Story:

I started my relationship with extension as a clover bud in Saunders county where I grew up. I showed a farm cat I had named Socks at the local county fair and loved it. Extension had a large influence over my youth, where I made friends at camp and county fair, learned peer mediator training in Ithaca, and learned about our governmental process at the Unicameral Youth Conference in Lincoln. Through college my various scholarships and experiences helped me manage my independence at UNL. A career in agriculture had me living and working in other states, and when I saw each community's relationship with their extension system, I really began to appreciate all it offered me and just how great Nebraska's extension system really is. As I became more settled back in Nebraska, joining NACEB seemed like a great way to give my time and talent to something that has given so much to me.