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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NDA OPENS APPLICATION PROCESS FOR 2026 NEBRASKA AG YOUTH INSTITUTE**

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is currently accepting applications from high school juniors and seniors for the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI). NAYI is one of Nebraska's largest agriculture youth outreach events. This five-day program brings students together, offering networking opportunities with ag leaders and a chance to learn more about the industry, discover careers and make new friends. NDA helps sponsor and coordinate NAYI every year. This year's theme is "Passion Meets Purpose."

NAYI will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus July 6–10, 2026. Current high school juniors and seniors interested in attending must apply online at [www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi](http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi). All applications must be submitted by April 15, 2026.

"NAYI is a long-standing tradition in Nebraska agriculture and a one-of-a-kind opportunity for high school students to connect with peers from around the state," said NDA Director Sherry Vinton. "It is one of the best ways for students to learn more about Nebraska's diverse agricultural industry and the hard-working people who help make our ag industry great."

NAYI features motivational speakers, discussions on agricultural issues, career development, networking opportunities, leadership activities, a farm management game, a formal banquet and awards presentation, and a dance. In its 55<sup>th</sup> year, NAYI is the longest running agricultural youth program of its kind in the nation. More than 225 students attended NAYI last year.

NDA selects students to attend NAYI based on their leadership skills, interests and involvement in agriculture. Students attend NAYI free of charge due to generous donations from agricultural businesses, commodity groups and industry organizations. Space is limited. Those interested in helping sponsoring NAYI can visit <https://nda.nebraska.gov/NAYIsponsors> for more information.

NAYI is coordinated by the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council, which is comprised of 21 college-aged students selected by NDA for their passion and interest in the ag industry. The Council's purpose is to provide young Nebraskans with a better understanding of agriculture, including agricultural opportunities available to today's youth.

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