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For Immediate Release

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### **NDA ANNOUNCES 2026-2027 NEBRASKA AG YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

LINCOLN — The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) develops and supports the next generation of ag leaders through the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council (NAYC). NAYC is a group of college students working together to share their passion and knowledge about agriculture with young people across the state. NDA is proud to coordinate the NAYC and announce the 2026-2027 Council members.

“Serving on the NAYC is a dedication of time and love for agriculture,” said NDA Director Sherry Vinton. “These students work hard all year to make NAYC a success each year. Despite having busy schedules, they make time for the many different learning opportunities that NAYC offers not only to the members but for the students on the school visits they conduct. I look forward to working with these Council members and seeing how their efforts strengthen the ag industry in Nebraska.”

NAYC members coordinate and participate in a wide range of ag-focused activities and events throughout the year. They visit elementary schools to talk about where food comes from and visit with high school students about career opportunities in agriculture. The primary focus of NAYC is to coordinate the annual Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI), a five-day summer conference with speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities for high school juniors and seniors.

NAYI is in its 56<sup>th</sup> year and is the longest running event of its kind in the nation.

Here is a list of the 2026-2027 NAYC leadership and their hometowns:

- Head Counselors: Cora Hoffschneider, Waco; Carson Mau, Sutton
- President: Baylor Behrens, Friend;
- Secretary: Gavin Bell, Hemingford;
- Vice President of Communications and Social Media: Libby Macklin, Blue Hill;
- Vice President of Alumni Relations: Austin Kamm, Lincoln;
- Vice President of NAYI Improvement and Promotions: Morgan Bonifas, Aurora;
- Vice President of Youth Outreach: Emily Holz, Syracuse; and
- Co-Vice Presidents of Sponsorship: Morgan Havlovic, Prague; William Vyhnaelek, Friend.

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Additional NAYC members and their hometowns include: Ian Schiller, Scribner; Ericka Larsen, Burwell; Preston Beattie, Sumner; Landon Peterson, Western; Alee Schicksnider, Orleans; Sam Cederburg, Minden; Parker Walahoski, Overton; Gracie Reynolds, Hooper; Colter Wright, Burwell; Maggie McCarthy, York; and Josephine Turnbull, Waco.

“The Nebraska Department of Agriculture is committed to spreading awareness about agriculture to everyone, starting with our state’s youth,” said Christin Kamm, NDA Director of Communications and NAYC Advisor. “Our Council members are dedicated young people who have already been impacted by NAYI and know what it can do for other students. I am so grateful they have chosen to use their time to be a part of NAYC and NAYI.”

To learn more, visit NAYC's website at <https://nda.nebraska.gov/nayi/nayc.html> or search for Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute on Facebook.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Individual head shots of NAYC members are available by emailing NDA’s webmaster at: [agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov](mailto:agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov).