

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture recently announced the selection of 194 Nebraska high school juniors and seniors to attend the 42nd annual Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) this year from July 8-12 on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus.

Area delegates are Rebecca Cornelius of Madrid and Alexandria Lundvall, Katelyn Melton, Taylor Nielson and Jaclyn Nelson all of Wallace. "The delegates to this year's NAYI are one of the largest groups of delegates in the history of the Institute." Said NDA Director Greg Ibach, "It is very encouraging to see so many youth want to learn more about the agricultural industry." "NAYI is designed to educate youth about agriculture, how to get involved in the agricultural industry, as well as about the numerous career opportunities available to them in the future. The week also will provide the delegates an opportunity to network with industry leaders, top-notch speakers, and agricultural representatives."

During the five-day Institute, the delegates will participate in agriculture policy discussions, agricultural career explorations, and group discussions.

Motivational speakers, a farm management program, and a media experience will help the delegates develop leadership potential, strengthen their pride in Nebraska's agricultural industry and enable them to help tell the story of agriculture.

Since its inception in 1971, NAYI has reached over 5,000 youths from across Nebraska. The Institute is the longest-running agricultural youth institute of its kind in the nation. Delegates are able to attend the Institute free of charge because of the generous donations of numerous agricultural businesses, commodity groups and agricultural organizations.

NAYI is coordinated by the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council (NAYC), which is comprised of 19 college-age men and women selected by NDA. Gavin Kenny of Amherst and Haley Harthorn of Ainsworth are serving as the head counselors for the NAYC this year and are responsible for the day-to-day planning of the Institute.