

Nebraska Youth Crop Scouting Competition – 2023

Nebraska Extension, with support from the Nebraska Independent Crop Consultant Association, Ward Laboratories and the Nebraska Soybean Board is pleased to bring you the 9th annual Crop Scouting Competition for Nebraska Youth. Students (those completing grades 5-12) from across Nebraska are invited to compete and showcase their scouting abilities in corn and soybean.

Purpose:

- To provide students an opportunity to learn crop scouting and principles of integrated pest management (IPM) for corn and soybean in Nebraska
- To gain knowledge about the scouting, identification, and management strategies for diseases, insects, and weeds common to Nebraska crops
- To develop the ability to gather information and solve problems
- To demonstrate knowledge of crop scouting and IPM principles in a competitive event
- To obtain knowledge and skills that will be helpful in future careers related to agriscience and environmental sciences

Prizes: Monetary prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Location and date: The 2023 Crop Scouting Competition will be on **August 2, 2023 starting at 8:30 am**. The top two teams will advance to the Regional Competition which is held in Nebraska this year on September 18, 2023.

Preparation: A set of IPM learning presentations and Extension publications are available to help prepare teams for the competition at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/cropscoutingcompetition>.

Teams will be expected to know the basics of scouting corn and soybean fields. This includes crop staging and disease, insect, and weed identification, etc. Other topics may include, but are not limited to, pesticide safety, plant physiology, and nutrient disorders.

Opportunities for Youth This Year

Free package of study materials will be mailed to each team that registers by the deadline! When teams register, we will send one package to every team sponsor that provides an address. Study materials will include

- a. Weed, Disease & insect guide
- b. Corn and soybean field guide
- c. A magnifier for your phone camera
- d. Additional promotional items

We are also providing, “**Office hours with an Agronomist**”. Join us for several office hours with an Agronomist. Starting soon, different Nebraska Extension agronomist/specialists will share some scouting information and answer your questions. No registration required. A link will be posted on cropwatch.unl.edu/youth webpage on the day of the office hours that will direct you to a zoom meeting to participate.

Teams: Each school, club, or other organization may enter one or more teams composed of three to five participants. FFA team members must all be from the same chapter. Each participant will participate in all phases of the event.

Each team is responsible to provide whatever they will need to conduct field scouting. No scouting tools or supplies will be provided, but teams are welcome to bring the materials they will need to scout a field (i.e., tape measure, pest/disease ID guides).

Registration: Teams must register by July 15. To register, please fill out the form at the end of this document and follow the instructions found there.

Adult volunteer team supervisors: Each team of students will need to be accompanied by an adult team leader. Adults are NOT allowed to provide team members input during the competition.

Schedule: Registration and set-up begins at 8:15am and the contest will end by 2:00 pm or shortly thereafter. This schedule is approximate and is subject to change, as it is based upon registration numbers. A detailed agenda will be sent to registered teams before the contest.

Activities:

General Knowledge Test -

- Test questions will be as done as a group utilizing an online game platform.

Crop Scouting Field Exercises –

- Teams will conduct field-scouting exercises for both corn and soybeans.
- 8-10 stations with 15 minutes allotted for each station

Publicity/Image/Voice Permission: The Crop Scouting Competition for Nebraska Youth (CSCNY) and its sponsors take photographs or video recordings during the competition. During this program, a photograph or video recording may be taken of children and team leaders. *Team leaders are requested to relay this information to the parents of competition participants and to participants themselves.*

Unless you request otherwise, your registration will be considered permission for University Of Nebraska - Lincoln and the CSCNY and its sponsors to photograph, film, audio/video tape, record and/or televise the image/voice of children and team leaders for use in any publications or promotional materials, in any medium now known or developed in the future without any restrictions. If you object to UNL or the CSCNY and its sponsors using your child's/team leaders image or voice in this manner, please notify the CSCNY, in writing, at the time of your registration or before the CSCNY. Mailing address: Brandy VanDeWalle, NE Extension, 1340 G Street, Geneva, NE 68361.

Sponsors: We would like to thank our sponsor for their generous contribution of funds or materials to the Scouting Competition: **Nebraska Independent Crop Consultant Association, Nebraska Soybean Board and Ward Laboratories.**

For further questions, please contact Brandy VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu.

2023 Crop Scouting Competition Registration Form

Please complete this form and submit it by July 15 in order to register for the Crop Scouting Competition. You will receive confirmation of your registration once we receive this form.

Registrant Information

Team name	
Adult sponsor(s)	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip	
Telephone	
Email address	
Number of team members (3-5)	
School if FFA	
County if 4-H	
Youth Names	

Contest details

Date: August 2, 2023

Location: ENREC, Mead, NE

Time: Check-In begins at 8:15am.

Photo Release Forms

These forms should be signed by youth parents/guardians and brought to the competition.

Please return this completed form to Brandy VanDeWalle by July 15th

Mail: Brandy VanDeWalle, NE Extension, 1340 G Street, Geneva, NE 68361

Email: brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu