

2026 Special Agronomy Project Popcorn

The Nebraska Extension Special Agronomy Project gives 4-H members an opportunity to experience a crop that is grown, was grown or has the potential to be grown in Nebraska. Youth participate by receiving seed and resources to grow the crop, research traits of the crop and determine the viability of that crop in the part of the state they live. The project allows 4-H members interested in agronomy to grow something fun, new, and different.

In the sixth year of the special agronomy project, youth will explore TWO varieties of popcorn! The first is an heirloom variety that was discovered and developed by a farmer in eastern Nebraska, called Nebraska Red. The second is a commercial variety, Robust 997.



4-H members enrolled in the Special Agronomy Project will:

- For 2026, each youth will receive 2 'packets' of seeds in April
- Grow their seeds in their garden – recommended not to plant sweet corn due to cross pollination potential, but dent corn won't impact the popcorn and these two varieties when planted at the same day will pollinate at different times.
- Receive written resource materials
- Be eligible to enter an exhibit at both the County and/or State Fair in the agronomy project area:
 - G750011 - Special Agronomy Project - Educational Exhibit (SF259) ○ G750012 Special Agronomy Project -Video Presentation
 - G750013 Special Agronomy Project **(Freshly Harvested Crop – Either 2 ears or 2 plants – these can be the same variety or 1 of each)**

Enroll for the Special Agronomy Project by contacting your local Nebraska Extension Office to order packets of seeds. The local Extension Office will order and distribute the seeds.

Contact Brandy VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu or 402.759.3712
or Aaron Nygren at anygren2@unl.edu or 402.624.8030

