



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy presented members of the Chase County All-Stars 4-H Club with a banner Friday morning, as they were selected as the 4-H Club of the Month for September.

4-H clubs from throughout the state nominated themselves, and the Nebraska 4-H Ambassadors and Nebraska 4-H Foundation make the choice each month.

The Chase County All-Stars 4-H Club recently sponsored a Progressive Ag Safety Day for children in their community and surrounding area for the third time.

In July, 91 children ages six to 14 participated in the safety day, with 86 volunteers helping set up and on the day of the event.

Also in July, 24 members of the club volunteered at "Feed My Starving Children," an event that packages food for children in need.

Organization leaders are Chris Tomky and Lisa Schilke and volunteer leaders are Tracy Coleman and Jippi Milner.

Lt. Governor

Lt. Governor Sheehy said it's vital to the growing state of Nebraska to attract and keep students such as those in All-Stars 4-H Club.

"Economic vitality and education go hand in hand," he said. Nebraska wants to grow businesses and attract new businesses that would offer jobs to young adults.

There are several ways to accomplish these goals.

Since 2005, when Governor Dave Heineman appointed the lieutenant governor, the Nebraska Advantage program has been in place to offer business incentives and job creation.

Lt. Gov. Sheehy said since then 300 companies have made application for benefits, added \$8 billion in infrastructure to the state, and created 20,000 new jobs.

Another program, Innovation in Talent, is a partnership between private business and higher education to place interns at businesses. Those interns learn on the job, the businesses benefit from their work, and the businesses may hire those interns following graduation.

Lt. Gov. Sheehy said he and the governor also travel extensively talking about Nebraska's business environment, which is rated highly in business journals.

Nebraska has a four percent unemployment rate, about half of that of other states. He said businesses expanding in Nebraska include insurance, financial, biotechnological, manufacturing and farming.

Lt. Gov. Sheehy, a lifelong Hastings resident, said he will be filing to run as governor after the Nov. 6 election. He filed his political campaign statement last December.