Seven 4-Her's were awarded ribbons in the 2009 Chase County 4-H Public Speaking Contest, held April 7 at the Lied Imperial Public Library.

Youths from age eight to 19 have an opportunity to participate in the 4-H Public Speaking program from county to state levels.

4-H members in Novice (8-11, first time presenters) may read a short story or poem, while Junior (11 years of age and younger), Intermediate (12 to 13 years of age) and Senior divisions, are required to prepare an original speech about 4-H.

The top three speakers in the all divisions will represent Chase County at the Regional 4-H Speaking Contest.

Chase County's regional speech contest representative will be Rose Sullivan in the junior division.

In the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) division, 4-Her's were required to write a 60-second radio spot promoting 4-H. The top three county winners in each division will compete in the regional contest.

Representing Chase County this year in the regional contest will be Intermediate-Elizabeth Tomky and Junior Division-Regan Gittlein, Brady Gittlein and Joseph Tomky.

The 4-H Public Speaking Contest is sponsored by the Nebraska Rural Radio Network, which includes KRVN, KNEB and KTIC. They provide the ribbons, $25 cash award for the top four winners in the Senior Division of the regional contests and scholarships for the state speech and PSA winners.

Here are the ribbon placings:

Junior speech division—Grand Champion, Rose Sullivan, purple.

Novice speech division—Grand Champion, Brady Gittlein, purple; purple ribbon winner, Hayley Vitosh; blue ribbon winner, Lauren Prior.

Public Service announcements—Grand Champion, Elizabeth Tomky; purple ribbon winners, Brady Gittlein, Regan Gittlein and Joseph Tomky.

The Imperial Rotary Club sponsored trophies for the novice and junior divisions. KADL Radio Station sponsored the PSA trophy.

Former 4-H'ers have said that participation in the 4-H Public Speaking program has helped them develop skills that have benefited them in high school, college and on the job. By learning how to present a speech, youths develop organizational skills as well as communication skills. Being able to present your ideas effectively helps build confidence.