

## White ribbon brings back memories

### 4-H fair project offered a lesson in building principles

It's county fair time across Nebraska...and that means exciting days ahead for 4-H families. And even though county fair is only one activity of the total 4-H program, it's one of the most highly visible.

County fairs are a time for making memories. Recently, one evening Kay McKinzie, state 4-H specialist, was straightening her clothes closet and came across a 4-H memory...a yellow blouse and a gray floral skirt.

As she unfolded them, Kay wondered why she had saved them. For they weren't purple ribbon exhibits—both were white.

However, hours and hours of work had gone into those two garments. The skirt had a set-on waistband and zipper. The zipper had been ripped out so many times that the stitching line looked perforated. The blouse had set-in sleeves and an attached collar with sewn-in interfacing—iron-on interfacing had yet to be invented.

At the fair, Kay remembers asking the typical question a 4-H member asks of parents, "What ribbon do you think they'll get?" Her mom, answering in the typical parent mode, said, "Well, I think the skirt could get a blue ribbon and the blouse a red." (Parents don't want to get the anticipation level too high.)

So you can imagine how Kay's heart dropped to her toes when, the next day, hanging up for the whole world to see, were her exhibits with white ribbons attached. She wanted to get them down and take them home.

But they stayed there throughout the fair, and with the encouragement of her family and 4-H leader, Kay enrolled in sewing projects the next year. Her skills improved, for those were the only white ribbons she received in sewing.

So why did Kay keep this outfit, and not the blue and purple dresses? Perhaps it was because she worked so hard on it. Perhaps it was because she knew it deserved more than white ribbons. The sewing really

wasn't that bad; even after 38 years she still thought they deserved a better ribbon.

But that yellow and gray outfit symbolized more than just ribbons. It's an example of the principles and values of the 4-H program. 4-H believes that boys and girls are more important than a specific project; learning to do a project is more important than the ribbon; that learning by doing is fundamental in any successful educational program; and that programs should be geared to build on the individual strengths and needs of the youngster.

The bottom line is the philosophy that a blue ribbon 4-H boy or girl with a red ribbon exhibit is more important than a red ribbon 4-H member with a blue ribbon exhibit.

County fairs offer many opportunities to build on these principles. Help 4-H members create as many memories as they can. One never knows what will make an impression and what they'll remember 38 years from now. (LJ)

## Judging: It's fun, it's for everyone

You do not have to be in an animal project to have fun judging animals at the Lancaster County Fair. Try something new, judge in more than one contest or try judging an animal you don't normally judge. Help and instructions are usually available

during the contests, so you don't need to worry about not knowing what to do.

**County fair contest times are as follows:**

**Tuesday, July 30, 2:00 p.m.**

Horses

**Thursday, August 1, 2:00 p.m.**

Dairy

**Thursday, August 1, 3:00 p.m.**

Goats

**Saturday, August 3, 2:00 p.m.**

Livestock (Beef, Sheep, Swine)

Give it a try. You need only be a 4-H member—enrollment in specific projects is not required. (LJ)



## 4-H leader's creed



### I believe...

...The 4-H member is more important than the 4-H project.  
...Learning how to do the project is more important than the project itself.  
...4-H members should be their own best exhibits.  
...No award is worth sacrificing the reputation of a member or a leader.

...Competition should be given no more emphasis than other fundamentals of 4-H work.  
...Enthusiasm is caught, not taught.  
...To learn by doing is fundamental in any sound educational program and is characteristic of the 4-H program.  
...Generally speaking, there is more than one good way to do

most things.

...Every 4-H member needs to be noticed, to feel important, to win and be praised (leaders, too).

...Our job as leader is to teach 4-H members HOW to think, not WHAT to think.

Source: anonymous (LJ)

## Thanks to livestock breakfast supporters

Our hats are off to all those 4-H livestock exhibitors who bring their animals to the fair and care for them night and day. Did you know that many of these dedicated 4-H members and leaders stay overnight to make sure their animals are safe and cared for? Most only show one

day and are there for the rest of the fair to make it possible for fair-goers to see the animals and watch them being cared for.

As a way of saying thank you to these young people and their leaders, an early morning breakfast is held for them. Sponsors of this year's event

include: AGP Grain Co-op, Bentzinger Grain and Equipment, Firth Co-op, Greenwood Farmers Co-op, the Waverly Co-op and Gooches. As you visit the fair this year, tell our 4-H exhibitors thanks for displaying their animals and express your appreciation to sponsors of the breakfast. (LJ)

## 4-H & Youth



### BULLETIN BOARD

Remember to review your fair book thoroughly prior to bringing your exhibits to the fair. By being prepared, you will help the superintendents in their jobs.

All Ak-Sar-Ben entries are DUE by Monday, August 5. Herdsmanship medals and ribbons can be picked up after Tuesday, August 6.

Wednesday, August 7, 7:00 p.m.—4-H Horse VIPS Post-Fair Meeting. Plan to attend—bring all comments—good and bad.

A special thank you, in advance, to all of the volunteers who help make the Lancaster County Fair. The time, effort and support you give to the 4-H program is much appreciated by all Extension staff!

Here's a challenge to all fair goers...try and take in one new activity at the fair this year, you might find something you'll really enjoy!

Tuesday, August 13, 6:00 p.m.—4-H Horse Awards Banquet and Potluck Dinner. Preregistration is appreciated, call the Extension office.

Change in state fair cat show—they are combining the long and short hair cat shows. Vet check 9:00-9:45 a.m., Saturday, August 24. Show begins at 10:00 a.m.

State fair notes:

Friday, August 30—4-H poultry exhibits must be in cages Saturday, August 31—4-H poultry exhibits judges/released at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 1—4-H rabbit exhibits must be in cages Monday, September 2—4-H rabbit exhibits judges/released at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 15, 7:00 p.m.—4-H Rabbit VIPS Post-Fair Meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

## Lancaster County 4-H horse exhibitors shine

The Lancaster County 4-H horse exhibitors showed who is "the" force to be reckoned with during the 1996 4-H District Horse Shows held in Beatrice, York, Elkhorn and Columbus. Congratulations to all riders who qualified for the State 4-H Horse Expo to be held at Fonner Park in Grand Island, July 15 to 18. And, a huge "pat on the back" to all of the exhibitors from Lancaster County; even if you didn't qualify for state—you're all winners to us. Set a goal and work toward it for county fair.

### Beatrice Winners

Angela Kruml  
Amanda Percival  
Andrea Winner  
Miranda Roesler  
Jake Hoppe  
Elizabeth Glenn  
Katie Salstrand  
Amber DeHoyos  
Alison Umberger  
Amy Countryman

Maggie Hoppe  
Hadley Richters  
Ryan Ehrlich  
J.J. Frink  
Mary Beth Volkun  
Kasie Hollman  
Kellie Hollman

### York Winners

Alyson Young  
Kyle Ryan  
Amy Ryan

### Elkhorn Winners

Jannell Colton  
Kevin Hajek  
Sara Messick  
Brandi Wynegar  
Jennifer Ronhovde  
Michelle Ronhovde  
Nicole Steinhauser  
Jayme Agena  
Tracy Tichota

### Columbus

Kim Caha  
Danae Peterson  
Jason Wise  
Lindsay Schroeder  
Kim Zalewski (CB)

## Volunteers are appreciated and needed!

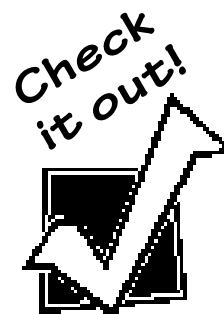
If you are 12 years of age or older, you could help as:

**Fair assistant**—help judges and superintendents with exhibits Tuesday, July 30, 4-8 p.m. or Wednesday, July 31, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Fair Fun Day helper**—give tours to daycare groups of the fair-grounds and activities Friday, August 2.

**Food booth worker**—help in the 4-H food booths. Please call Rosie VerMaas at 792-2517. Get your whole club to help!

Call the Extension office at 441-7180 to sign up. Thanks a million!



Ever wonder what information you may have missed by being an Independent Member? Wonder no more—just check the independent member mailbox located with the club boxes at the Extension office.