

HORSE BITS

Cindy Blome
Youth Extension Aide

Each 4-H family should have received their 1996 Lancaster County Fair 4-H Fair Book by now. There are several changes that may affect how you exhibit your horse at the county fair. The changes are important, but they are too lengthy to list. You should carefully read the following sections by page number for changes in this year's fair book:

- Horse Judging Contest (Page 14)
- Groom and Care Class (Page 59)
- Tack and Attire (Page 59)
- Safety Considerations (Page 59)
- Working Pleasure Class (Page 60)
- Open Dressage (Page 61)
- Reining Class (Page 62)
- General Breeds (Page 64)
- Pinto/Paint Horse Type (Page 65)
- Aged Horse Class (Page 65)
- Horse Game Show (Page 66)
- Western Horse Show (Page 66)

There are also several changes made by the horse VIPS committee not included in the 1996 edition. Please note the following corrections by writing them in your copy of the fair book:

Corrections in Fair Book
Page 58

"Age of Exhibitors"—the below listed age divisions are **not** consistent with Nebraska district and state shows and are **for the sole purpose of the Lancaster County Fair**. Delete "junior and senior age divisions" from the first line.

"Walk-Trot Classes"—delete the word "or" and add the word "and" in the third line (English and Western).

Page 59-60

"Presentation of Ribbons and Trophies"—delete "during the evening on the first Tuesday" from the second line AND change the last line to read "and the Confer Top Trail Award(s) will be awarded at this activity."

"Early Releases"—rules for early release from the county fair are listed on page 49. **"Written permission must be obtained from the 4-H horse superintendent, 4-H horse VIPS grievance committee or authorized representative, and authorized representatives from the 4-H Council."**

Page 62

"Hunter Hack"—add last line following word, "Sunday."
"Note: Not open to English walk-trot riders."

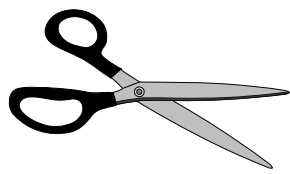
Page 63

"Horse Trail Show"—the class explanation should read, **"Refer to 4-H Trail Horse Class, pages 48-50, the green book. Elementary and junior age divisions will be scored on a minimum of six obstacles, not to exceed 10 obstacles in the senior division."**

Page 67

"Horse Competitive Trail Show"—scratch this show from your schedule; it will not be held in 1996.

If you have further questions after reviewing the fair book, please contact Cindy Blome or the designated superintendent listed for each event. Note: the deadline to enter the Lancaster County Fair 4-H Horse Show is Monday, July 8. (CB)



Clip this out!

These upcoming dates are very important.

Tuesday, June 4	Table Setting Workshop 6:00-8:00 p.m. East Campus Union
Thursday, June 27	Practice Lifetime Skills Judging 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 27	Practice Demonstration Workshop 2:30-4:00 p.m.
Monday, July 15	County Fair Contest Deadline 4:30 p.m.
Monday, July 15	Lifetime Skills Judging Contest 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Monday, July 15	Practice Style Revue 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 18	Demonstration Contest TBA (p.m. only)
Wednesday, July 24	Style Revue Judging TBA (a.m.) First Lutheran Church
Tuesday, July 30	Entry Day at County Fair 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 31	Judging Day at County Fair
August 1-4 1996	Lancaster County Fair (AMM)

I pledge my hands

Cheryl Goehring
4-H Key Leader

Community service projects can be fun as well as serve to make our communities more beautiful. They can be both inspirational and learning experiences. One idea can be used over again in different ways. There are so many varied projects your club can do; from the very simple to the very complex and time consuming. Here are a few ideas from our club.

"It's disgusting" are words our members uttered during a

clean-up session at a local park. Will these members litter like that? Surely not after having picked up after people who did.

"When can you come again?" we were asked after an evening of playing games and socializing at a local senior housing center. The residents really enjoyed having young children come and visit. Remember, don't visit just around the holidays! It's an enjoyable activity all year long.

We found a craft that involved recycling 6-pack pop rings into snowflakes. What started as a simple club craft turned into a two-year project.



The idea was shared with many people, a tree was decorated for a local holiday show to promote 4-H and raise money for Mad Dads, and a local hospital's cafeteria was decorated.

Painting the kitchen of a local city mission, mulching trees and hiking paths at a park, and helping at food banks and with food drives are all wonderful ideas that were shared with me.

Use your imagination and our communities will be better because 4-H members have pledged their "hands to larger service."

4-H food booths are full of fun!

LaDeane Jha
Extension Educator

"Our club can't wait to work in the 4-H food booths at the fair—in fact, they want to work two shifts," said a club leader during a recent phone call. Her club has discovered just how much fun it is to be involved in the 4-H Council's major fundraising activity. Not only do 4-H members and their parents have fun, they learn skills that can be translated into that first job. Satisfying hungry, hot custom-

ers, counting change, following safe food handling guidelines, and keeping cool when it seems like everyone wants a huge order at the same time are just a few of the ways youth stretch and learn.

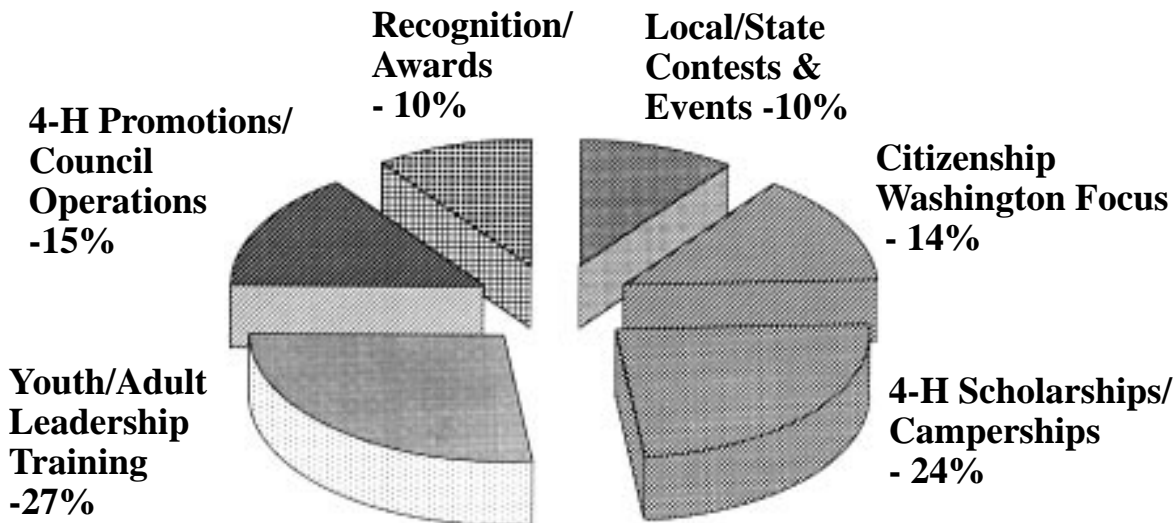
All club leaders will receive a letter during the second week of June assigning them to a time slot during the fair. Parents and other adults often lend a hand and are encouraged to do so. Clubs will then return a postcard to the 4-H Council indicating how many people they will

have available to work their shift. Independent members will also be asked to join in the fun.

Profits from the food booth are used as shown in the pie chart below:

A training for those planning to work in the food booths will be held on Thursday, July 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.. Put the date on your calendar and plan to walk away with new skills and confidence as you approach "your job" at the county fair. If you have questions, contact LaDeane. (LJ)

Use of Food Booth Profits



A pet in the house comes with responsibilities

Shirley Condon
4-H Key Leader

Are you considering adding a pet to your household? Whether it swims, crawls, walks or flies, a pet is a living creature solely dependent on its human caregiver for its health and well-being. Careful study and preparation will help you decide if the pet you are considering will be compatible with your household; will it get along with other pets, with other family members and with the habitat you can provide?

Careful research of the animal's requirements, by reading books and magazines dedicated to the care of the animal you have selected, and visiting with pet store experts, your veterinarian and local pet enthusiasts, will help you to answer the following questions. How closely can you duplicate its preferred habitat? Tropical animals, for instance, may

require special lighting, frequent misting to provide the proper humidity level and heavily planted, but escape-proof terrarium so the animals can hide. Is the food it requires readily available? A snake may require live or freshly killed "food" such as pinky mice, frogs or lizards, or even small rabbits. Sometimes your pet's food requirement may lead to another pet care project—raising feeder animals! Is veterinary care available? Many small animal clinics do not routinely provide care for birds or reptiles, and some may restrict their practice to cats and dogs only.

What time commitment is required for its care? A small goldfish bowl will require frequent cleaning, while a properly balanced 30 gallon tropical fish aquarium may need a complete cleaning once a year or less. Is there someone who can care for your pet or respond to an emergency in your absence? What about long-term care? The cage you have in mind for a 12-inch

iguana may not be suitable when the iguana reaches a length of six feet! Small mammals such as mice, gerbils and hamsters may live only 2 to 4 years, while a parrot may have a lifetime that spans many human generations. A box turtle is quiet and undemanding, but with proper care it can live 75 to 140 years. Have you considered the cost of the animal's care? Veterinary care alone for a healthy kitten will cost \$100 to \$140 in the first year. Careful preparation and planning will help prevent surprises later.

While this responsibility should not be taken lightly, a pet can provide a wonderful learning experience and be a source of entertainment and companionship for the whole family. For more information, manuals are available for the following 4-H small animal projects: rabbit, cat, dog, guinea pig, hamster, pocket pets, caged birds and tropical fish.