

# HORSE BITS

## Protecting land for trail riding

It's getting harder and harder to find places to ride. Our American lifestyle is replacing rural areas with subdivisions, strip malls and highways. People interested in riding horses need to take notice of these facts and trends. It's time to focus on better land use planning. Otherwise, someday soon we may find that we have no place to ride.

Equestrian groups around the country are recognizing the need to preserve land and wildlife. There are some guidelines to begin the task, but there truly are no set formulas as to how to go about land preservation. It's a difficult and constant task, one that requires participation, persistence and vision. But it is rewarding too, as it brings citizens and communities together and protects open spaces and trails forever.

Some of the issues concerning horse owners are loss of farmland and open spaces to development, and competition

between recreational users of the same land (such as hikers and bikers). Also, the cost of keeping a horse is rising. As neighboring farmland disappears, hay, straw and feed have to be shipped in from farther away which drives prices up.

What should be done? The first is to acknowledge that no community is immune from sprawl related problems. Then, if you want to preserve open spaces for equestrian pursuits in your community, seek out those who think as you do. Form an association and pick a good leader. Then think about protecting the land now available.

The best and only permanent legal method of protecting land is to place a conservation easement in perpetuity upon it. This is a legal agreement in which a property owner restricts and specifies the amount and type of development that can occur. Covenants in which deed restrictions are placed on the

property are useful tools as well, but they have no policing agent to oversee that the deed restrictions are adhered to.

Easiest and probably most importantly, be vocal and advertise your cause. Involve other local recreational groups such as hikers, non-motorized bikers, hunters, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops and nature enthusiasts who may have interest in trails or open spaces. Try to engage local historical societies and garden clubs in the cause. You might even try to get a few open-minded realtors on your side. Create power in numbers. Get to know your politicians and keep them informed about your concerns. Keep abreast of any county, state or federal highway department plans in your area.

Only with persistence and awareness can we protect our trails and be assured of future land for riding. (EK)

## Lancaster County Fair

August 4-8

State Fair Park • Lincoln

4-H Horse events begin Monday, August 2 (LB)

## Achievement night highlights

The 4-H Achievement Night and 4-H: What's it all About? program was held February 2. Many youth and clubs were recognized for their outstanding 4-H work in 1998. The night started out by 4-H members giving demonstrations of the various contests they participated in, ending with an awards ceremony.

This year, Marilyn Schepers was named the recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for her many years of dedicated service to the 4-H program. Community service awards were presented to Megan Bergman, Jenny Fiala, Monica Rentschler, Karen Clinch, Will Fox, Rachel Rentschler, Melissa Curfman, Vicki Green, Micki White,

Alyssa Fiala, Andrew Kabes, Sean White, Becky Fiala, Samantha Mussman, Ashia Witkowski, Brenda Fiala, Amber Ramirez and Kandra Witkowski for their many hours of community service.

Each year, 4-H members turn in record books to show their accomplishments in the 4-H program. This year's county award winners were Marta Madsen, Becky Fiala, Brenda Fiala and Megan Bergman. County winners selected to represent Lancaster County at the district competition are Marta Madsen, Becky Fiala, Megan Bergman, Jenny Fiala and JoHanna Madsen.

I Dare You awards were presented to JoHanna Madsen

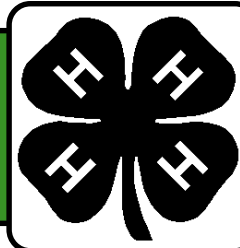
and Katie Salstrand.

The 4-H Council gave eight scholarships. Receiving these cash awards were Nathan Dowding, Jeremiak Frink, Kristin Harger, Jeremy Holthus, JoHanna Madsen, Adam Prior, J.R. Schepers and Jennifer Vaughn. Kristin Harger was presented the Havelock Business Scholarship and Jessica Jones was awarded the Lincoln Center Kiwanis Scholarship.

1998 Outstanding 4-H Club awards, sponsored by the Lincoln Center Kiwanis, were presented to the following clubs: Happy Go Lucky, led by Ron Dowding, Clover & Company, led by Kay Clinch and the Country Pals, led by Bonnie Lemke. (DK)



## 4-H & Youth

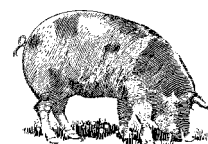


## Fundraiser for the new event center

Remember to mark your calendars for Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18 for the 4-H Fundraiser Horse Show to benefit the new event center. The show will be held at the East Arena, State Fair Park and will begin at 9 a.m. Preregistration fee is \$15 for the whole day or \$3 per class. Registration begins at 8 a.m. both days. Day of show costs are \$20 for the whole day or \$4 per class.

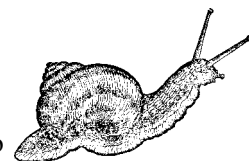
For more information, call Marti Countryman at 483-5978 or Ellen Kraft at 441-7180. (EK)

## Attention pork exhibitors



This year, all 4-H and FFA members enrolled in the swine project must be certified in Pork Quality Assurance. Deanna will be putting on two certification workshops in April and May. Please check your mailbox and next months NEBLINE for those dates. For more information, call Deanna at 441-7180. (DK)

## Join the fun!



Snakes and salamanders and snails, oh my! Lancaster County Pet Pals 4-H Club highlights exciting spring events.

Members of the club will host a March Pet Show for kids of all ages at the Lincoln Children's Museum, Lincoln Square Building, 121 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Look for pets on Friday, March 12, 1999.

At 7 p.m. on April 26, Lancaster County Pet Pals 4-H Club meeting will feature participants from Wesleyan University's Rat Race Relay. We're hoping to learn some tricks for training! So bring your critters and join the fun!

## Bake & Take Days

Bake & Take Days, sponsored by the Nebraska Wheat Board, are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 26 and 27. Bake & Take Days are a time to bake an item and take it to someone to let them know you're thinking about them. This "someone" could be a friend, neighbor, elderly person or shut-in who is frequently alone. If you want to deliver baked goods to a nursing home resident, be sure to check for dietary restrictions.

Stickers and pamphlets are available at the extension office. This is a great community service activity for 4-H or FCE clubs or families. (LB)



## Kiwanis Karnival

Karnival time is here! The Kiwanis Karnival is a free family event sponsored by Lincoln Center Kiwanis and the 4-H Council. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 7-9 p.m. at State Fair Park in the Grandstand Building. All 4-H families are invited to attend this fun and free activity.

4-H clubs or families are needed to provide carnival-type game booths for the evening. Each booth will have an area 4' x 6' to use. Prizes are provided. If your club or family would like to provide a booth, call the extension office to register by March 21. More information will be provided to those assisting with booths.

There will be bingo for the adults and treats for all. Plan now to attend this fun, family activity. For more information, call Lorene at 441-7180. (LB)