

National 4-H Week

October 3-9, 1999

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Extension Educator

Another busy year of learning and sharing has climaxed with the Lancaster County Fair. What does the county fair have to offer for 4-H members and their families? It is a time to display the works and achievements of a year of hard work. It is a time of seeing friends and attending social events. Leadership, showmanship and presentation skills are shown in the ring, contests and activities taking place at the fair. This is the time of year to reflect back on all of the learning gained and challenges faced by 4-H leaders and members. National 4-H Week, October 3 - 9, 1999, is a time to share the opportunities

that 4-H has available for youth. It is also a time for youth to share 4-H experiences with friends, classmates in school and other activities they participate in. The theme is ARE YOU INTO IT? 4-H.

4-H is a voluntary, informal education program for youth 5 - 19 years old. The learning opportunities go far beyond the projects that are taken, as they are a means to learning the life skills that will be used through the 4-H members life. Five to 8 year olds can belong to Clover Kids, a non competitive program for youth. Youth 9 to 19, during the calendar year, can join the traditional 4-H program through club or independent study. The 4-H year runs from October 1 through September 30. 4-H clubs are organized within neighborhoods or school areas with volunteers as leaders. Leaders may be parents, relatives,

neighbors or 4-H alumni interested in working with youth or sharing what they may have learned through the 4-H program.

4-H teaches skills in many areas. Former 4-H members have found leadership and presentation skills to be very useful throughout life in the education and occupation fields.

A 4-H Celebration was held at the Lancaster County Fair to recognize members and leaders for years of membership, service and outstanding achievements. The fair theme of Old Fashioned Family Fun was carried out at the celebrations. The 4-H Council coordinated these activities. Families participated in a pie eating contest, water balloon toss and tug-of-war. Families were selected from the audience to take part in

the activities.

Everyone had a good time cheering on their friends and family. 4-H members who had completed their third year or graduated from high school in 1999 were given pins. 4-H leaders were recognized for 2, 5 and 10 years of service. Plaques were presented to 4-H members achieving the highest awards in several areas.

You, too, can share in the celebrating achievements—join 4-H or become a 4-H volunteer. To become involved, call University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County at 441-7180. (LB)

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4-H Council
Left to right seated
Rosie VerMaas, Karen Rutt, Deb Day, Jesse Schrader, Valerie Lemke, JoHanna Madsen and Gene Verburg, standing - Deb Arends. Not pictured Janet Anderson, Megan Bergman, Jenny Fiala, Lindsey Johnson, Trudy Pedley, Karleen Stutzman and Larry Pershing.



5 year leaders attending
Tony Tvrdy, Harold Roper and Richard Hollman



3 year members



1999 Graduating Seniors attending:
Jamie Baumen, Jenny Fiala, Amanda Birkett, Jessica Hartwig, Jim Staley, Daisy Ann Erks and JoHanna Madsen



Water Balloon Toss



10 year leaders attending
Deb Badeer, Diane Fry, and Jan Madsen



Pie Eating Contest



2 year leaders attending
Ruth Lantis, Charlotte Verburg, Kay Clinch, Connie Little, Karen Rutt and Gene Verburg



Tug-of-war

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