

4-H & Youth

4-H CAN Fight Hunger

In an effort to fight hunger, Nebraska 4-H will be conducting a 4-H CAN Fight Hunger Campaign. The goal is collecting 4000 pounds of food. Collect donated food now until Jan. 5, 2002 and donate it to a charity of your 4-H club's choice. You can also bring it to the extension office and we will donate it to the food pantry. Please report to



Tracy the total weight of food collected, the number of youth and adult volunteers, the number of total volunteer hours, the agencies and/or groups who benefitted from the food drive, and any publicity the project received. Call Tracy at 441-7180 for more information and for 4-H CAN Fight Hunger promotional material. (TK)

4-H Volunteer Forum

The 2002 Nebraska State 4-H Volunteer Forum will be held Feb. 15-16 in Grand Island. This forum is a conference developed by a committee of 4-H volunteers from across the state.

Network with other 4-H leaders, exchange successful 4-H programs among 4-H leaders and be introduced to new areas and projects. There will be numerous workshops

offering hands-on learning experiences and new ideas and programs designed to enhance your club.

Anyone interested in 4-H is welcome to attend. Applications for scholarships from the State 4-H Office are due Dec. 15. Applications for scholarships from the 4-H Council are also available.

Contact Tracy at 441-7180 for more information. (TK)

Fall Rabbit Clinic a Success

The Fall Rabbit Clinic was held on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the extension office. It was a great clinic for both new 4-H rabbit exhibitors and current exhibitors who just wanted some additional information about caring for and showing their rabbits. There was a demonstration on tattooing, and information was shared about different breeds of rabbits,

housing and care of rabbits and how to read the fair book.

Thanks to all of the exhibitors and friends of the 4-H program who assisted and shared their knowledge, including: Teri Bramhall, Lindsay Brinson, Mary Cudaback, Dawn Eggert, Judy Fitzgerald, Kirstin and Rodney Liljestrand, Lance Maahs, Ken Majors and Emily

Morton.

In the upcoming months, look for more information about our upcoming Spring Rabbit Clinic and Show. The clinic will be held at 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, March 14 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center and the show on Saturday, March 16 at the Lancaster Event Center.

Getting a New Pet for the Holidays?

If you and your family have a pet, or you are thinking about getting one, there are some things that need to be considered. What are the needs of the pet? Who is responsible for feeding and caring for the pet? Where will it play and sleep? It takes a great amount of time and attention to raise a pet, so sit down and discuss the following points with your children.

- You will need to provide your pet with love, food and water, shelter, exercise and the health care it needs.
- If you own a cat or dog, think

carefully about letting your pet have babies. More kittens and puppies are born than there are homes for them. Consult your veterinarian for information about spaying or neutering your pet.

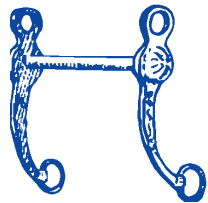
- Does your pet know your name and address? To assure that your pet will be returned to you should it get lost, attach an identification tag to its collar. In Lincoln, all cats and dogs must be licensed.
- Keep your pet safely in your own house or yard.
- Take your pet to see a veteri-

narian regularly. Dogs and cats need yearly examinations and shots to prevent certain diseases.

Loving and caring for family pets is an excellent way to teach responsibility. Most children have a natural affection for animals and are born with a sense of curiosity and fascination about animal life. Taking care of a pet will help children develop the insight and understanding they will need as adults to make personal and political choices beneficial to all creatures. (ALH)

4-H Bulletin Board

4-H Ambassadors will meet at 2 p.m. and Teen Council will meet 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 6



HORSE BITS



Members of Lancaster County's 4-H Horse Judging Team are (left to right) Patrick Smith of Ceresco, Kelly Heather and Teresa Perrin of Waverly, and Morgan Snyder of Crete.

Area Youth Represent Nebraska at National Contest

The Lancaster County 4-H Horse Judging Team recently competed in the All American Quarter Horse Congress-Youth Judging Contest in Columbus, Ohio. The contest consisted of twelve placings classes and four sets of oral reasons. The Lancaster County team placed 16th in Halter classes, 19th in Reasons and 26th overall.

The Lancaster County Team earned the honor of representing Nebraska as a result of the competition held at the State 4-H Horse Exposition in July.

4-H Horse VIPS Committee Update

It seems as though we just finished with County Fair and here we go again! The 4-H Horse VIPS Committee is planning the new 4-H year and we need everyone's help.

We are organizing a group to present a clinic/conversation for all 4-H club leaders and any interested parents. Some topics we would like to cover are the resources available to club leaders, review of the 4-H calendar year and level testing requirements. Club leaders have received information in the mail and we encourage them to share this with their member's parents. The date for the clinic will be determined, then published in the January NEBLINE.

We are also preparing for the January 4-H Horse VIPS Committee fair planning meeting which will be held 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 9. One of the committee concerns is the low number of people in attendance at the VIPS meetings. The two major consequences of this are:

- You have a very small number of people making the decisions for the 4-H horse program in Lancaster County which will affect 237 exhibitors and their families
- When we plan County Fair and do not have enough volunteers to put on the show, the people in attendance will decide which classes need to be cut.

Neither of these is desirable.

Please mark your calendars and know that the 4-H Horse VIPS Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month except December, and **everyone** is welcome to attend.