

Bailey Monroe Shows Cats Throughout the Year

Bailey Monroe
Independent 4-H member

My name is Bailey Monroe and I have been in 4-H for 7 years. I first became a member of Eagle Eyes 4-H Club in 1995. This club was really fun. When it disbanded, another group formed, the Lancaster County 4-H Cat Club. This group was a lot of fun too, but mainly because we only studied cats. This year, I am an Independent member of 4-H.

At my first county fair, I showed my cat, Clifford. I liked showing my cats and meeting other kids who love their pets. I was really nervous about getting up in front of a big group of people but I did it and it turned out okay. In the following years, I exhibited many different cats and began to enjoy talking with the group more and more. I even gathered the courage to participate in the Quiz Bowl. I've worked my way up in showmanship and now I'm an Advanced Senior.

Pretty soon, one cat show a year wasn't enough — I needed more. I was bitten by the show bug! I registered for a local CFA (Cat Fanciers Association) Cat Show held by the Lincoln Cat Club in February 1999. This was a lot of fun and my household pet, Oswald took two Bests! Well, this resulted in show fever and two weeks later, I was in Kansas City, at another cat show! I now attend more than twelve cat shows a year.

In 2000, a CFA program called Junior Showmanship emerged. I registered for it and over the last two years, I have worked my way up to becoming a Senior in the program.

In November 2001, Friskies sponsored me at a CFA International Show in Houston, Texas. This was really cool. I met a friend in Kansas City and we drove to Houston. The cat show started on a Friday with a Junior Showmanship banquet that we attended that night. All the kids got to meet each other so we weren't strangers. There were kids from all over the world.

On Saturday, we got on a big bus with all of our supplies and cats and went to the cat



Bailey Monroe showed her cat DeEar at last year's County Fair.

show. When I walked into the building, I got chills—this was my second International, but seeing thousands of cats in the hall is so neat. We set up our area and at 11 a.m., we were called to the ring. How the show would run was explained to us. We then were sent back to get our cats.

First up were the Novices, then the Juniors, and finally, the Seniors. By the time I was to enter the ring, it was 1 p.m. and I was very nervous. I got up, went to the table, the judge asked me some questions and then I went to get my cat, Ebony. Ebony had been so good — he got tired of waiting and curled up in his cage. I woke him and presented him to the crowd. When I was finished, I put Ebony back and was told I could sit down.

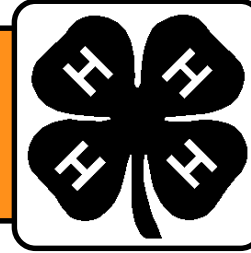
There were a few more kids to judge and then the awards. First the Novices, then the Juniors. I was really happy because my friend Erika got second place. Now the Seniors! 4th place goes to Teal, 3rd goes to Bailey. Did she say my name? Oh gosh! I was so excited. Enthusiasm overwhelmed me and I was so happy. I went up to receive my award. This is the best thing that ever happened to

me! When we were dismissed, I was allowed to get my cat and my basket of goodies from Friskies. I must have thanked Kitty Angel a million times — I had not expected anything. We went back to the hotel and settled in; Ebony got his treats and was happy.

On Sunday, we were invited to the Best of the Best ring where officials told everyone what we had accomplished. We each got an award and plenty of recognition. Then we packed up our show stuff and left for home. What a great experience!!

I also have judged a few cat shows. I love learning about new breeds. Many breeders have helped me learn about different kinds of cats and how to judge them. So far, I have judged nine different breeds of cats.

I wouldn't have been able to do any of this without 4-H. It has helped me a lot. 4-H has helped me with my public speaking which is a life skill that everyone should have. 4-H has encouraged me to continue working with cats and learning as much as I can about them. I encourage anyone interested in 4-H to join. It will help you out a lot. 4-H intensifies your self-confidence and makes you capable of anything.



4-H & Youth

4-H Exhibit at Museum of Nebraska History

The Museum of Nebraska History in Lincoln plans to create a 4-H exhibit that will run from Aug. 1 through the end of December. The exhibit will contain items from throughout Nebraska. The Museum is located at 15th and P Streets in Lincoln and is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday and 1–4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Come visit this great 4-H display! (TK)

4-H Alumni Reunion at State Fair

Connect and reconnect with 4-H friends at the 4-H Alumni Reunion and Breakfast held **Saturday, Aug. 31**, 8–11 a.m. at the Nebraska State Fair in the indoor arena attached to the 4-H Exhibit Hall! The event is in honor of the 4-H centennial.

The breakfast will feature pancakes and sausage. You'll find entertainment for the whole family, 4-H memorabilia, a chance to recognize four- and five-generation 4-H families, and honored 4-H alumni.

Check out the 4-H Vintage Fashion Show at 11–11:30 a.m. in the Open-air Auditorium.

Everyone is invited to the FREE Ice Cream Social with 4-H Clover Mint flavor developed by NU's Dairy Store. Ice Cream Social is at the 4-H Exhibit Hall from 3 p.m. until the ice cream runs out!

Tickets are \$5 in advance at local Cooperative Extension offices. There is no charge for children age 5 and under. People purchasing their tickets by Aug. 20 will receive half-off the \$6 State Fair gate fee from 8–10 a.m. on Aug. 31. Breakfast tickets will be sold at the door for \$7.

Questions? Contact Trish Spencer at 472-9016.

Looking for Clubs 50 Years and Older and Four- and Five-Generation 4-H Families

4-H Clubs that are 50 years and older and four- and five-generation Nebraska 4-H families will be recognized at the Alumni Reunion on Aug. 31 at the Nebraska State Fair. Recognition may be limited to a verbal announcement; no funding is available for mileage, breakfast or gate fee reimbursement.

4-H Clubs that are 50 years and older are asked answer the following questions:

- 1) What year did your club begin? Where?
 - 2) What was the name of the club? What is the name of the club today? Location?
 - 3) Please list the names of as many charter members as possible.
 - 4) Please share one or two interesting things about your club. (It could be that you've staffed the foodstand at the fair for 30 years, etc.)
- Four- and five-generation Nebraska 4-H families are asked to answer the following questions:
- 1) Approximately what year did your family become involved in 4-H?
 - 2) Without going to a lot of work, please name as many family members as possible who've been involved in 4-H as well as years and counties.
 - 3) Why has your family been involved in 4-H for four or more generations? What have you gained from your involvement?

Please respond by Aug. 1 to: Trish Spencer, State 4-H Office, 114 Ag Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583; or e-mail pspencer2@unl.edu.

Volunteers Needed for Alumni Reunion

If you're planning to attend the 4-H Alumni Reunion and Breakfast, please consider volunteering and helping to make this event an extra-special one. The Centennial Committee has a variety of volunteer options available, everything from serving as table hosts and greeters to dishing up ice cream and helping decorate. If you're interested in serving as a volunteer, please call 472-9016 or e-mail: pspencer2@unl.edu.

Lancaster County 4-H'ers Among Those Attending 4-H Unicameral Youth Conference

The 2002 4-H Unicameral Youth Conference was held June 9–12 in Lincoln. More than 50 youth from across the state spent three days at the State Capitol debating bills, interacting with state senators and legislative aides, and learning the importance of representative government. Five Lancaster County 4-H'ers were among the attendees: John Hecker, Sam Beck-Johnson, Will Fox, Karen Clinch and Monica Rentschler.