

4-H Kick Off a Success



The 4-H Kick Off held at the Lancaster Event Center on Sept. 16 was a success with more than 220 people in attendance. Lancaster County 4-H would like to thank the Lancaster County Fair Board for their generous assistance and providing the use of the facility (pictured are Ron Dowding, Frank Mitchell and Ron Snover). Lancaster 4-H Council also provided much assistance. Thanks to Rhoode Packing Co. for donating Fairbury Brand hot dogs, Weaver's for donating potato chips, and First State Bank of Hickman for donating napkins and plates.

New 4-H Projects are Now Available!

Two new curriculum series, "Financial Champions" and "Becoming Money Wise" are now available that focus on money management and concepts. These curriculum pieces delve into such practices as keeping track of where money is spent, check writing, reconciliation of bank statements and credit card interest rates just to name a few. Another 4-H project available is "Exploring Your Environment". For example, 4-H'ers learn how to create an ecosystem and compost, how to reduce solid waste and why clean water is important. Come to the office and get these projects today! (TK)

Swedish Weaving Anyone?

4-H'ers who are currently enrolled or plan to enroll in Home Building Blocks 3 and are interested in learning Swedish weaving you are now in luck! Huck toweling, the type of fabric necessary for Swedish weaving, can be difficult to locate, but thanks to 4-H leader, Linda Hanigan, the toweling is only a phone call away. She has toweling to spare for only \$3 a yard. Please contact her at 488-6807. (TK)



Sarah Kosch's Unit II Action Print (above) was one of several photographs chosen from State Fair entries for the honor of being displayed in the UNL Cooperative Extension Dean's Office on East Campus during the upcoming year.

4-H Bulletin Board

- Teen Council will meet Sunday, Nov. 9, 3-5 p.m. All 7-12 grade youth are invited to join!
- Remember, all 4-H clubs have their own mailboxes at the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Office. Leaders, parents or members will want to check them periodically.

Community Service Can be Part of 4-H Club Meetings

Julie Walla-Thomson
Co-Leader of Sunshine
Clover Kitties

4-H members are busy people! The members of Sunshine Clover Kitties believe volunteering is an important part of 4-H. We try to make some time for it during our meetings, as well as create club opportunities to volunteer.

Our parents are a valuable resource for volunteering ideas. Our first year, a parent suggested our club make Thanksgiving dinner for an immigrant family — a perfect match for beginning cooking experiences. We contacted a social services agency which identified a family and set up delivery of the meal. Our families divided up the various dishes to prepare together.

We've also used parent work places as volunteer locations where we often wear 4-H items to promote the program and identify us as members. One member spent the summer volunteering at the day care of her mother's work place — a perfect experience for "The Sitter" project!

Libraries offer many volunteer opportunities. Our club members have been summer reading volunteers at city and school

libraries. One member shared her entomology exhibit at a special library program. Two members gave a chess demon-



(Above) Members of the Sunshine Clover Kitties staff a booth at the Kiwanis Carnival booth every year.

(Right) Members help at this year's "Discover 4-H, Discover You" event at the State Fair.



stration at a library chess group.

Members have taken projects and posters into their schools to share and promote 4-H as well.

Many projects lend themselves to volunteering and opportunities within 4-H. Wildlife and horticulture projects fit with the UNL Landscaping & Gardening Day. Our entomologists helped at the State Fair's "Discover 4-H,

Discover You" event. Our group often participates in the song contest, which led to singing at the Kiwanis picnic. We create a

booth for the Kiwanis Carnival each year.

The Sunshine Clover Kitties have adopted a park area where we collect trash, which gives our families a chance to pitch in as well. Another ecology effort, recycling, is a source of club funds. We pull the tabs off cans and save them for the Ronald McDonald House, then sell the cans. We also roll newspapers

to sell to the wholesale florist.

Every year, our club participates in the Toys for Tots program. We use our meeting time to sew the toys. We have made beanie bears, pioneer rag dolls and felt books, which helped with hand sewing skills. We've already started stuffed toys for this year.

We'll build candy houses in late fall which might go to area seniors. We hope to form a theatre troupe to perform some "American Girl" plays at area nursing homes.

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The 2004 Nebraska State 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum will be held on the following dates and places: April 2 & 3, Eastern 4-H Camp at Gretna & April 23-25, State Camp at Halsey. More details to follow. (TK)

2004 4-H Unicameral Day Set

4-H Foundation's 2004 Unicameral Day is Tuesday, Feb. 17. 4-H'ers from across the state will have the opportunity to visit the state capitol for the day to learn more about the legislative process, discuss current events and perhaps interact with their state senator at a luncheon. Two youth age 12 to 19 will be chosen from each legislative district. Applications are available at the extension office or online at 4h.unl.edu/programs/citizenship/civics/uyc. 4-H Council will provide scholarships for the \$20 registration fee.

SEPTEMBER

Marilyn Schepers

Lancaster County 4-H and 4-H Council are proud to announce Marilyn Schepers as winner of October's "Heart of 4-H Award" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Marilyn has been a 4-H volunteer for 23 years (21 years in Lancaster County and 2 years in Burt County). She has been the Teen Council Advisor for 18 years. She was the superintendent of the 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest (formerly the Bicycle Rodeo) at the County Fair for 14 years. She organized the Lancaster County Shooting Sports club. She has served on a variety of former VIP committees including Speech Contest, Bicycle Rodeo, Shooting Sports and Small Animals. She is the former leader of the Busy Buddies 4-H club (all of its members have graduated from the program).

In 1988, she helped establish the Nebraska 4-H State Volunteer Leader Forum and served as its co-chair. The following year, she was Nebraska's representative in the Salute

see HEART OF 4-H AWARD on page 11

