

## 4-H Helps *Holiday of Trees* Raise \$2,500 for After School Hot Lunch

Approximately 2,500 people attended Heritage League's *Holiday of Trees* held Dec. 4 and 5 at the Unitarian Church in Lincoln.

4-H decorated three of the 26 trees on display. 4-H'ers utilized their creativity to make hundreds of ornaments for the trees. Animal cookies of all sorts, from fish to dogs to horses to cows, were created for the "4-H is Alive at the County Fair!" tree. A variety of personalized ornaments depicting 4-H memories — some from long ago and some from this year — were made for the "4-H Memories" tree. Members of the 4-H Pet Pals Club strung cereal on strings, made bird seed ornaments, and other decorations for "The Wild Side of 4-H" tree.

Ticket sales totaling approximately \$2,500 benefitted the Salvation Army After School Hot Lunch program. Salvation Army vans daily transport approximately 50 children from three Lincoln Public Schools to the Community Center where the youth are provided with a hot, nourishing, well balanced meal.

Heritage League organizes *Holiday of Trees* annually and have raised more than \$120,500 for local charities since 1973.



The success of *Holiday of Trees* is due to the support of individuals and organizations who decorate trees and to the public who attend the event. Thanks to all of the 4-H'ers who made ornaments!

### COUNTY AND STATE FAIR NEWS

#### Lancaster County Fair Aug. 4-8

The dates for the 2004 Lancaster County Fair have been set for Aug. 4-8.

#### 4-H Photography Themes

The 2004 County and State Fair 4-H Photography themes have been announced: Unit II — "Perfectly Purple"; Unit III — "Mailboxes"

#### Swine & Sheep Superintendents Needed

Swine and sheep superintendents are needed for this year's Lancaster County Fair. If interested, call Deanna Karmazin at 441-7180.

#### State Fair Livestock Rule Changes

**Exhibitor Age Change** — In the past, State Fair required livestock exhibitors to be 12 years of age to participate. As of this year, youth will only need to be 10 as of Jan. 1, 2004 to be eligible to exhibit livestock.

**State Fair Swine Rule** — The current rule regarding previous exhibition will be removed for 2004, i.e. it will be acceptable for a pig to be shown before coming to State Fair. Although this State Fair rule is changing, it is still recommended that swine shows be terminal.

A pilot "Production Pig" class will be introduced at State Fair this year. This project will include identification and weigh-in of pigs in the spring. Judging at State Fair will include lean gain per day of age (which incorporates average daily gain and carcass characteristics), as well as a visual placing.

**Beef Rate of Gain** — The current rules on Rate of Gain for market beef will be changed as follows: We will continue to require rate of gain data on all market cattle and maintain the current minimum standards the same (2.2 and 2.0 for steers and heifers); however, the penalty for not making the minimum will change to being ineligible for first or second place in a class, rather than an automatic red ribbon.

A corresponding change in the carcass contest will be to place in the top 10 in the carcass contest, cattle must meet the minimum rate of gain, but are otherwise eligible for all ribbon colors, regardless of rate of gain. (DK)

### JANUARY

#### Franklyn Manning

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

Franklyn is very active in the 4-H Horse program.

The Wee Amigos 4-H club nominated Franklyn and wrote, "Because to us Frank is 4-H in life practices. He has worked with 4-H kids and their horses for more than 25 years. Frank loves working with and being around young people and their horses. At the 2003 Lancaster County Fair, Franklyn was there helping out wherever he was needed by being a barn superintendent, organizing the speed events and sponsoring trophies. When we think of role models for our youth we cannot even begin to count the number of lives he has touched, whether it's answering questions, helping out with construction or clean up projects, balancing books, generating ideas, joking with kids or riding himself. 4-H is a better organization and young people have become better adults as a result of Franklyn Manning."

"I enjoy seeing the young people grow up, mature and be good citizens," Franklyn said. His favorite experience volunteering at the county fair was this year. "In 2003, members of the Horse VIPS committee and 4-H club leaders put on, and pulled off, one of the best horse shows at the county fair since I've been around," he said. Franklyn lives in Lincoln and also volunteers at the American Lutheran Church. His favorite way to relax is working with and riding his horse, Skeeter.

Congratulations to Franklyn. Volunteers like him are indeed the heart of 4-H!

To nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer or leader, submit the form available online at [lancaster.unl.edu/4h](http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h). Nominations of co-volunteers accepted.

## HORSE BITS

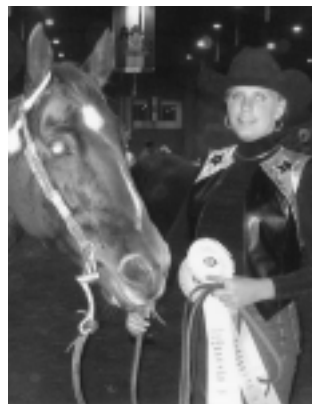
### 2004 4-H Horse Stampede

Mark your calendars! The 2004 Horse Stampede has been scheduled for Saturday, March 13. Entries are due Monday, Feb. 2. For entry forms, a schedule of events and more information check online at [animalscience.unl.edu/horse/stampede.htm](http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse/stampede.htm) (MC)

#### Nebraska 4-H Horse Art Contest Part of Horse Stampede

New this year! An art contest to encourage youth to broaden his/her horizons and utilize creative talent within the horse project. Entrants must be of 4-H age but do not need to be enrolled in a horse project. All entries are to be original works and relate to the equine. Pencil, chalk, charcoal, pen and ink or pastels may be used. No photos allowed. Entry size must be a minimum of 9"x12" and a maximum of 18"x24". This indicates the finished matted size. All entries must be matted with a maximum 3" border. No glass allowed. Entries should have a secure hanging device attached to the back for display purposes. All items must include name, address, county and age as of Jan. 1, 2004 on the back. Exhibits must be delivered to the Lancaster Event Center in the South Expo Hall between 5 and 9 p.m. Friday, March 12.

Judging will take place during the 4-H Horse Stampede. Judges will be looking for originality, creativity, composition and craftsmanship. The Champion and Reserve Champion exhibits will be retained for use in the program of the 2004 State 4-H Horse Exposition! For additional information please check online at [animalscience.unl.edu/horse/artcontest.htm](http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse/artcontest.htm) or call Marty at 441-7180. (MC)



#### Dye Places 3rd at American Royal

Martina Dye and her horse Powder N Sugar (Playgirl) traveled to the American Royal in Kansas City on Nov. 2. She competed and placed third in the American Quarter Horse Association's Youth Reining. Martina is a senior at Norris High School and the daughter of Martin & Marilyn Dey, of rural Roca. Martina also competes in National Reining Horse Association events in the Midwest. (MC)

