4-H Youth “Let the Good Times Grow” at Super Fair

MANY 4-H YOUTH choose to exhibit their project(s) and participate in contests at county and state fairs. The 2015 Lancaster County Super Fair was held July 30–Aug. 8 at the Lancaster Event Center. This was the fifth year the Lancaster County Fair was 10 days. Nearly 700 4-H/FFA exhibitors showcased over 5,100 exhibits (including static exhibits, Clover Kids, animals and contest entries). A special thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make 4-H & FFA at the fair possible!

The Lancaster Event Center and Super Fair’s new tagline, “Let the Good Times Grow,” applied to 4-H/FFA youth who “grow” knowledge and skills while having a good time exhibiting at the fair. 10-year-old 4-H'er John Sump said, “I love exhibiting my projects at the Lancaster County Super Fair because it’s so cool to see my hard work on display. I made a wooden mat out of old garden stakes. I learned how to sand — a lot! This was the first time I used stain, too. Most importantly, I learned patience because I applied three coats of polyurethane to my project. It was fun to make something old, new again!”

8-year-old Clara Johnson experienced 4-H activities at the Super Fair for the first time after being a Clover Kid (ages 5–7). When asked how her first year went, she said, “It was absolutely amazing! It was a lot of work and practice, but it was amazing. Next year, I will start earlier with documentation and writing my stories because I ran out of time in the end. I will write a list of things that I need to do earlier in the year. Mostly, 4-H is really fun and you learn so much!”

Due to the outbreak of avian influenza, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture cancelled all events where birds are co-mingled in 2015. Extension Associate Marty Cruickshank, 4-H Poultry Superintendent Jean Nabity and 4-H poultry club leader Diane Merrell quickly responded by creating alternate 4-H poultry events for the Lancaster County Super Fair. New events included a poster contest, presentations, poultry parts identification contest, quiz bowl and a crowing contest. 4-H'ers used a stuffed bird to focus on the 4-H'ers themselves to celebrate showmanship.

In livestock showmanship classes, youth are judged on their ability to handle and present their animal. 4-H Clover Kids (ages 5–7) could enter exhibits and participate in Show & Tell, earning participation ribbons. 4-H Table Setting Contest is a fun way for youth to learn how to plan a nutritious meal, set a table and present to a judge.

4-H Poultry Presentations was one of the new poultry events which replaced live birds because of avian influenza. The team presenters above discussed bird diseases and demonstrated how to treat bumblefoot.

The State Games of America were held in Lincoln for the first time in 2015. The Lancaster County Ag Society and Nebraska Sports Council teamed up to host a Joint Closing Ceremony during Super Fair for State Games and 4-H/FFA champions. Grants from the Lancaster County Visitors Improvement Fund paid for commemorative medals, fireworks and more.

4-H Youth “Let the Good Times Grow” at Super Fair