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4-H Clover Connection

Blaine County OSU Extension Center, 212 N. Weigle, Watonga, OK 73772 580-623-5195

Email: blaineco@watonga.com

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4-H Club Members are Gearing Up For Oklahoma State Fair, Tulsa State Fair

The smell of cotton candy is in the air and Oklahoma 4-H'ers are preparing for county fairs, of which the top exhibits will be taken on to the Oklahoma State Fair and the Tulsa State Fair.

As club members go through the fair book, they may notice a change in some of the age divisions and classes of exhibits, said Kevin Hackett, Northwest District 4-H Youth Development program specialist.

"We've reworked some of the classes at both state fairs. Some categories have been combined and others have been split into new categories," Hackett said.

A committee comprised of volunteer leaders, specialists and Extension educators worked on updating the new exhibit opportunities back in November. The newest exhibit category is called Community Service Education Booth Displays.

This category is devoted to promoting community service in which 4-H members and groups have been involved.

"Community service is a big part of the overall 4-H program and we wanted a way to highlight the efforts of the club members to the public," he said. "The youth can either do the community service project themselves or they can lead others youth in doing the project. We want to bring to the forefront some of the excellent work our club members do."

All of the 4-H exhibits are listed in the livestock portion of the fair book for both fairs. The plan is to not print fair books for either state fair this year. They are available online only through each state fair's respective Web site.

Hackett said most county fairs have adopted all the classes featured at both the Oklahoma State fair and the Tulsa State Fair. Both state fair books are available online through the 4-H Web site at www.clover.okstate.edu/fourh/. Click on the 2004 State Fair Information link near the bottom of the page in the "Recent Site Updates" section. Near the middle of the page is "Fair Book Information." Both of the state fair books can be reached from this link.

The Oklahoma State Fair kicks off Sept. 17 and runs through Sept. 26. Exhibit judging day is Sept. 14 and all exhibits must be in place by 11 a.m.

The Tulsa State Fair opens to the public on Sept. 30 and runs through Oct. 10. Exhibit judging day is Sept. 28 and all exhibits must be in place by 11 a.m.

The Oklahoma Vegetable Association will once again sponsor the Giant Pumpkin Contest at the Oklahoma State

Fair. This competition is an effort to get more 4-H and FFA members interested in horticulture.

The weigh-in will take place Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and is open to all 4-H'ers no matter what fair in which their county participates.

"The winners of this competition are determined by the weight of the pumpkin or pumpkin-type squash," he said.

First prize is \$100 and a trophy, second place is \$50 and a trophy and third place is \$25 and a trophy.

Hackett said both of the state fairs give the public a wonderful opportunity to see the diversity of the Oklahoma 4-H program.

"There will be traditional livestock exhibits, as well as exhibits that showcase breads, science and technology, photography, conservation of natural resources and sewing, just to name a few," he said. "4-H offers its members so many different opportunities and the Oklahoma State Fair and the Tulsa State Fair are great places to see the positive effect the organization has on its members."

Blaine County Fair

Time is running out to prepare your exhibits for the Blaine County Fair. The Fair will start August 26th with entries arriving at 4:00 p.m. All entries must be in place by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 27th. Fair books are printed and available at local businesses and the Extension Office.

There are a lot of 4-H categories to enter. Take time before school starts and get some entries completed. Don't forget about the "Special Categories" on the back page. 4-H members are welcome to enter these in the junior class.

Consumer Judging

A Consumer Judging Contest will be held Saturday, August 28th from 9am – 12noon in the Foley Building. This contest will encourage youth how to make decisions, look at all the facts, review closely the situation and determine the best or better products for each given situation. There will be four classes that the participants will judge. Potential classes might include video games, toys/books, school supplies, electronic equipment and personal items. All 4-H members are encouraged to participate in this contest. Young people purchase many items and it is important that they become better consumers. This contest is geared towards developing the skills and abilities to make better decisions. Check it out in the Fairbook for more information.

Volunteer Meeting

All volunteers are invited to Record Book Evaluations Tuesday, August 17th at 5:30 p.m. at the Blaine County Fairgrounds. We will organize for the next year, elect officers for 2004-2005 and schedule events for the year following record book evaluations.

4-H Camp Review

Twenty-two (22) 4-H members from Blaine County and one sponsor attended Junior Camp. Swimming, speakers and workshops added to the fun. Start planning to attend next year's camp. Thanks to Rick Syzmore for attending. Raychelle Hayes, Christy Brownlee and Brooke Bisel from AmeriCorps assisted throughout the camp as well.

State 4-H Club Congress

Courtney Seelke from Blaine County attended the state 4-H Club Congress in Oklahoma City in late July. The group visited the State Capital, participated in mock legislative sessions and attended a theatre presentation.

NW District Leadership Conference

Teens (must be 13 by December 31, 2004) will also want to put this date on their calendar. The Northwest Leadership Conference will be October 20, 21, & 22, 2004 in Woodward. Members interested in running for a district or state 4-H office will need to attend and start the campaign. More information will be available in late August. Cost will be announced later.

2004 – 2005 Enrollment

The new 4-H year began July 1, 2004. Current members need to inform their organization leaders or the Extension Office of any changes in their address, emails, projects, etc. You do not have to complete new enrollment cards. Their membership automatically rolls over to the new year. **Only new members need to complete enrollment cards.**

New volunteers will need to complete leader certification application forms and continuing volunteers will need to complete a re-certification form.

Skyler Pittman, Okeene, recently returned from his trip to Washington, D.C. As a delegate to Citizenship Washington Focus. If you are looking for a guest speaker, keep him in mind to share about the trip, patriotism and citizenship.

Dates To Remember

- 8/17 - Volunteer Meeting, Fairgrounds
- 8/15 - Okla. State Fair Entry Deadline
- 8/20 - Tulsa State Fair Entry Deadline
- 8/26-28 - Blaine County Fair
- 9/13 - 4-H entries qualifying for Okla. State Fair due to Extension Office by noon
- 9/14 - 4-H Judging Day at Oklahoma State Fair
- 9/17 - Oklahoma State Fair begins
- 9/25 - Tulsa State Fair begins
- 9/28 - HCE Blood Drive, Blaine Co Fairgrounds
- 10/20-22 - NW District Leadership Conference



New PQA Guidelines

Age: Youth 9 – 18 Levels:

Beginners –Ages 9-11: Certification: Annual Training.

Intermediate – Ages 12-14: Certification: Annual training or Pass Exam

Advanced –Ages 15-18: Certification: Annual Training or Pass Exam.

Oklahoma State Fair

September 16-26, 2004

Entry Deadline: August 14, 2004

The 2004 Oklahoma State Fair Premium List information will only be available via the internet! Entry forms will be available on line, plus, up-to-the-minute updates will be posted when new information becomes available at:

www.oklahomastatefair.com.

National Make a Difference Day

October 23, 2004

Each year numerous 4-H clubs participate in this national program. Last year at least 15 clubs received national recognition for their programming efforts. We encourage local clubs to look into this excellent Service-Learning opportunity at:

<http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/>

4-H Day at A Cowboy Football Game

Saturday, October 2, 2004

Group Ticket Rate of \$22/person, youth or adult

A \$22 ticket to the OSU vs. Iowa State Football Game includes a pre-game Tailgate Party for 4-H members, alumni, and 4-H families on the lawn North of the State 4-H Office. Pre-registration form with payment must be submitted to the State 4-H Office by September 22nd. Contact your leader or the office for a form.

There will be a 4-H Day at a Soccer Game October 17th at 1:00 p.m. It looks like tickets will be under \$5 per person for groups for this event. More details later.

Watch for 4-H & FFA Day at a Cowgirl Basketball Game coming in the Spring.

September Fest at the Governor's Mansion September 4, 2004

September 4th, Septemberfest will be held on the Governor's Law. Septemberfest is coordinated by the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture and sponsored by Oklahoma Farm Bureau. The purpose is to give youth-serving organizations and agencies the opportunity to interact with urban families. Last year 4-H clubs from across the state assisted the state Officers and Ambassadors in coordinating activities at the Oklahoma 4-H display during this event.

12-19 year olds are invited to join in sharing the educational and fun opportunities experienced and learned through project-related hands-on activities and demonstrations. Activities and projects should be pertinent to an urban audience and peak the interest of youth to become 4-H members.

Each participant will be asked to conduct their activity repeatedly during a 2-hour period. The time periods include: 9:30am – 12:00noon; 12:00noon – 2:30pm; and 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Pre-registration form is due no later than August 23rd. Contact the office for more information.

Northwest Oklahoma 4-H Winter Shooting Sports Series 2004-2005

Tentative Dates as follows:

<u>Shoot Date</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Location</u>
Nov. 6, 2004	Roger Mills	County Fairgrounds
Nov. 20, 2004	Blaine	County Fairgrounds
Dec. 4, 2004	Woodward	County Fairgrounds
Dec. 18, 2004	Dewey	County Fairgrounds
Jan. 15, 2005	Harper	County Fairgrounds
Jan. 29, 2005	Major	County Fairgrounds
Feb. 12, 2005	N.W. Dist.	Woodward Co. Fairgrounds

Junior Prospect Steer Nominations

The Oklahoma Youth Expo is offering an Oklahoma Expo steer nomination site alternative at the 2004 Oklahoma State Fair Prospect Steer Show. All Oklahoma Youth Expo nominations rules will apply.

- ❖ Steers nominated at this site do not have to re-nominate or attend steer nominations held in early October at El Reno, OK.

- ❖ Exhibitors may nominate as many steers as they choose to enter into the Oklahoma Youth Expo Junior Prospect Steer Show.
- ❖ Nominations during the Oklahoma Youth Expo Prospect Steer Show will be held: Barn 9, Thursday, Sept. 16, at 1:00 p.m.

Oklahoma & Tulsa State Fair Livestock Entries

Okla. State Fair Junior Livestock Pre-Entry Fees:

Beef cattle, Steers & heifers per head...\$25
Dairy Heifers, per head.....\$25
Sheep & Swine, per head....\$20
Grooming chutes, scales, blocking stands, generator permit.....\$25

Pre-entry deadline is August 15th. There will be no entry on arrival.

Tulsa State Fair Junior Livestock Processing fees per head:

Market steers.. \$20 + \$5 testing fee
Breeding Heifers.....\$20
Dairy Cattle.....\$20
Lamb Lead.....\$20

Breeding swine & breeding sheep.....\$12 + \$4 testing fee
Market broilers (one pen)...\$12
4-H Livestock Judging & Commercial Cattle Grading contest.....\$2
FFA Livestock Judging Contest (per chapter).....\$10

All 2004 entries must be postmarked by August 20, 2004!

“Steps in Judging”

Tips for Consumer, Foods and Livestock Judging

Information – Know the intended use of the items you evaluate. Be able to identify parts, components, factors, and details of each item where comparisons can be made.

Situation – Review any statements or information given. The details listed will most likely be important as you observe and compare classes/items. It will help you know what to look for or evaluate. You could note the key item across the page to compare each item against each other as you review the class.

Observation – Get a clear overview of the whole class. Look for items or features that stand out. Are they important things related to the situation or are they only fluff or personal preference details? Observe each item carefully, evaluating how it meets or fails to meet the requirements necessary for the given situations.

Comparison – When you judge a class of items, you should have five items in mind: the four in the class and the ideal item for the situation. Determine, note, and remember the most desirable features of each of the items. Establish differences and similarities between each of the items.

Placing – A class of four items may be divided several ways: an obvious top pair, an obvious bottom pair, an obvious top item, and obvious bottom item, or they may just fall easily in line. After the obvious/easiest, go back and place the closer items. Don't place on little things; look for the big differences that affect use, usefulness, cost or relevance first. A harder class may get down to little things, but it will just be to help you finalize the placing of items that are very close.

Conclusion – Rank items on the relative merit of usefulness to the situation given. Rank the items assigning them 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places. Ask yourself:

- ❖ Were the differences to note for each pair?
- ❖ Are there enough points to justify your placing?
- ❖ Did you change your placing after thinking about the situation?