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4-H Clover Connection

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Ag in the Classroom Curriculum Gets a New Look

About a century ago, nearly every single resident of what was then known as Oklahoma Territory was involved in growing the food and fiber he or she needed in order to survive.

Fast forward 100 years to the year 2004 and only about 2 percent of the entire American population grows everything that we need, said Pat Thompson, curriculum coordinator of the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom (AITC) program.

“Because today’s youth are three or four generations removed from the farm, the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom program was developed to help Oklahoma school children learn more about our state’s No. 1 industry – the food and fiber industry. The series of lessons are designed for students in kindergarten through sixth grade, and incorporate agricultural-related facts and topics to help teach math, science, social studies, language arts, music and visual arts.”

Implemented in 1992, the AITC curriculum features 123 lessons, and each lesson includes simple-to-use background information to help teachers answer students’ questions regarding specific agricultural topics. All of the lessons are provided free of charge to each school across the state. AITC is a joint project between the Oklahoma cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Youth Development; the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry; and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Thompson said something new that will soon be available to all schools are “mini” AITC lessons. The lessons themselves are printed on small recipe-size cards.

“These new lessons will come in a smaller barn shaped holder,” Thompson said. “The cards feature quick reference material that teachers can access quickly and incorporate the agriculture facts into their regular lessons. This new material is intended to be used to supplement the information that is on the AITC Web site.”

The lessons will be available for grades kindergarten through sixth grade. Each set contains five different packets and each packet contains 10 lessons.

The lessons deal with a variety of topics ranging from the environment to how to host an Ag Day.

The Oklahoma Wheat Council is picking up the cost of printing the lessons.

“We are hoping to be able to send out a new packet of information every couple of months,” she said.

To help keep Oklahoma’s school teachers informed about different agricultural practices around the state, the Oklahoma Beef Council sponsored two tours this past summer.

About 70 teachers toured a variety of agricultural related sites in eastern Oklahoma. Plans are for another set of tours next summer in western Oklahoma.

“The purpose of these tours is to provide teachers with an agricultural experience,” Thompson said. “It gives them the opportunity to meet people who actually are engaged in production agriculture and hear their stories and experiences. This knowledge in turn helps the teachers as they present the material to the students in their classrooms.”

Future plans for AITC include development of materials and lessons for middle school students.

More information about the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom program is available through the Oklahoma 4-H Web site at <http://agweb.okstate.edu/fourh/>. Scroll down to the Ag in the Classroom link listed under “Related Web Sites.”

Blaine County 4-H Share-the-Fun

The Blaine County Share-the-Fun contest will be held Saturday, November 20th. Participants will need to arrive by 9:30 a.m. and the actual contest will begin at 10:00 a.m. Please note that this is a date and time change from previously announced. The contest will be held in the Liberty Theater in Watonga. County Officers will need to arrive by 9:15 a.m. **Entry forms are enclosed in this letter and are due in the Extension Office by Wednesday, November 17th to appear in the program.**



NW District Leadership Conference

Four teens will represent Blaine County at the Leadership Conference in Woodward, October 20-22nd. Attending will be Skyler Pittman, Courtney Seelke, Kristi Brown and Monty Brown. The theme of the conference is "CSI, Clovers Serving Intensely". They will be chaperoned by Alvin and Joy. If you have been saving the pull-tabs, please place these in a ziplock plastic bag and give to one of these participants or bring them by the Extension Office. These pull-tabs benefit the Ronald McDonald foundation.

Farmers Union Speech Contest

There is still time to get your speech ready for the Oklahoma Farmers Union Speech Contest. The contest will be held at Waynoka High School on Tuesday, November 9th. Information on the speeches length and content can be found at the OFU Website or here at the Extension Office. The subject for all speeches is "How My Organization Promotes Good Community Living".

4-H Month

October is "Oklahoma 4-H Month" and this is one of the best times to get out and promote the world's largest youth organization. Be sure and spread the word about 4-H throughout this month. We have a few yard signs available at the Extension Office for only \$5.00. This is on a first-come-cash basis.

Make It Yourself With Wool



The District I Make It Yourself with Wool Content will be held on Saturday, November 20th at the Woodward Vo-Tech.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Entry forms must be postmarked by October 30th are available at the Blaine County Extension Office. If for some reason you cannot attend at Woodward and are still interested in the contest, you may change districts with permission from the director. Please call for more information.

The State Contest will be held Saturday, December 4th at the Fairview Vo-Tech Center. You must attend and qualify at the district for this contest (Juniors and above). Ages are determined as of December 31, 2004. Categories are:

Pre-teen (12 and under)
Junior (13-16)
Senior (17-24)

The garment must have been completed after January 1, 2004 to be eligible.

N.W. District Trap Shoot Scheduled October 16, 2004

All participants must have completed the Hunter Education Safety Program and having attended a minimum of 8 hours of instruction prior to the contest to be eligible to participate in any 4-H Shooting Sports Contest. The Northwest District Trap Shoot will be held on Saturday, October 16th at the Elks Gun Club just north of Enid on Highway 81.

Practice shooting will begin by 8:30 a.m. Practice fees are \$1.00 for 10 targets.

Trap competition will begin by 9:30 a.m.

2004 Oklahoma Trap Shoot – October 23rd Oklahoma Trap Association Gun Club El Reno, Okla.

Practice shooting begins at 8:30 a.m. Practice shoot fees are \$3.00 for 10 targets.

Registration 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Trap shooting will start promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Blaine County 4-H Achievement Program

Don't forget to attend the Achievement Program, Sunday, October 17th, 2:00 p.m. at the Blaine County Fairgrounds. We will be honoring all of our award winners for the past program year and announcing the Blaine County Hall of Fame awards. Be sure and invite your friends and family to attend. There will be a reception following the awards.

Christmas Bazaar/Santa's Village

The Christmas Bazaar will be held Saturday, December 4th at the Blaine County Fairgrounds. The Watonga 4-H will be running the concession stand for this event. Come by and do some holiday shopping, visit Santa's Village and get a picture with Santa.

District 4-H Leader's Training

We will be hosting a District Leader Training session on Saturday, November 6th at the Blaine County Fairgrounds. Sessions will start at 9:30 a.m. and plan to adjourn by 4:00 p.m. There is no registration fee and a break for lunch on your own will be given. Topics tentatively covered will include:

Legal and Liabilities Issues
First Aid Safety
Activities for Food Project Groups or Club Meeting
Games and Club Meeting Activities
State Awards Program and Record Books
Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
Volunteer Certification and Club Chartering

If you attend the full day, you will receive credit for two training sessions of the four needed to remain a certified volunteer. A half-day will count for one training session.

Due to the training opportunity on November 6th, our regularly scheduled meeting for November 2nd will be cancelled. A short leader's meeting will be held during the noon hour for Blaine County 4-H Volunteers.

2005 Oklahoma Youth Expo

All of the 2005 Oklahoma Youth Expo Information, Guidelines, Rules & Contest Information are located on the web-site okyouthexpo@sbcglobal.net.

Nominations:

Steer Nominations: The October dates for steer nominations had to be changed due to circumstances beyond our control. **The dates of steer nomination are October 21 & 22, 2004 at OKC West in El Reno, Okla.**

Sheep/Meat Goat Nominations:

November 8, 2004 – Muskogee, Okla.
November 9, 2004 – Enid, Okla.
November 15, 2004 – Chickasha, Okla.

Swine Nominations:

January 15, 2005 – **All swine nominations must be received into the Okla. Youth Expo Office.**
This is a date change. January 8, 2005 Postmarks will be accepted.

Entries:

All entries must be received into the Okla. Youth Expo Office by February 25, 2005.

2005 Important Changes & Program Additions:

For a full listing please visit the Okla. Youth Expo web-site at www.okyouthexpo.com and view the Important Dates and Changes Page.

- All Swine must be PRE-ENTERED by February 15, 2005.
- Late Entries
- State Cattle Fitting Contest
- Master Showmanship Contest
- 9 Meat Goats to be in the Sale of Champions

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Caleb Westfahl. He was named the 2004 State Wheat 4-H Champion and over-all Grand Champion for the 2004 State Wheat Show. Caleb received a scholarship for \$3,000 for his efforts. Also placing in the top 25 were Thomas Blehm and Katie Blehm of Okeene. Congratulations once again to everyone

RETURN BY: November 17th

4-H SHARE-THE-FUN CONTEST

TO: OSU Extension Center
212 N. Weigle
Watonga, OK 73772

Contestant(s) Name(s) _____

Name of Number _____

4-H Club _____ Junior Div.(9-13) _____ Senior Div.(Over 13) _____

Small Group (2 to 4 participants) _____ Large Group (5 or more participants) _____

Individual _____ Musical _____ Dramatic _____ Novelty _____

	COMMENTS	SCORE
PERFORMANCE AND POLISH		50%
Originality shown, interpretation of material, skill, timing, smoothness and grace of routine		
APPEARANCE		20%
Appropriate costumes Light and sound effects stage props, atmosphere, appropriate to the theme of the act		
PROJECTION		15%
Ability to project to reach the audience		
AUDIENCE APPEAL		15%
Did the audience like it?		

TOTAL SCORE _____

BLUE RIBBON _____

RED RIBBON _____