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4-H Clover Connection

June, 2002

Entrepreneurship Teaches Youth About Business

Many people have the dream of owning their own business, being their own boss and doing their own thing. There are a lot of today's youth who have that same dream, whether it's through the roadside lemonade stand or through a technology-related business.

Most kids who are entrepreneurs are interested in business as a whole, not just making money, said Glenn Muske, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service home-based and micro business specialist.

"Today's youth have a major impact on the economy. They are spenders and consumers," he said. "A lot of these kids earn the money they spend by working for someone else, or by starting their own small business. Parents and other adults can play a vital role in encouraging youth and providing various opportunities to learn about and participate in entrepreneurship."

Youth who are active in the Oklahoma 4-H Program have a wealth of opportunities to take the skills they are learning and turn them into a profit-making venture. The sewing and clothing projects can lend themselves to a small, home-based business. 4-H'ers can take their sewing skills and put them to use in making complete outfits, operating a repair business or even in designing clothing. Club members who take part in the childcare project area may be active in taking care of children during the summer months. Others who are savvy in technology may want to start a business designing web pages for local businesses. Planting and harvesting a vegetable garden and selling the produce at the local farmers' market is another opportunity for youth.

"Small businesses create about 80 percent of all new jobs," Muske said. "These small businesses are those that employ 20 or fewer people. It can be encouraging for future entrepreneurs to know that many of the large technology

companies such as Microsoft started in garages and basements."

While many young business owners got started with the roadside lemonade stand, the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service has programs aimed toward helping youth who are looking for other ideas or who want to grow beyond what they have now.

One such program, "Lawn Care and the Environment," is designed to teach participants about lawn care, lawn equipment, lawn safety, different types of lawn mowers, entrepreneurship and communication with customers.

Another program is called Mini-Society. In this program, participants create their own society, including businesses and currency. They also make their own laws. Muske said this helps them learn about the social responsibilities of owning a business, not just the business itself.

"An important aspect of entrepreneurship is kids must work at their business in order for it to succeed. It isn't a matter of simply making a profit—they will get to see the reality of owning a business," he said. "Parental support and encouragement is important, but it's not a good idea to bail the kids out when the business runs into problems. This is a time when they can fail without serious consequences, but will learn a valuable lesson. Not only will these young entrepreneurs build confidence and self esteem, but by owning their own business they will become better equipped citizens who are capable of helping to build a stronger economy."

Written by Trisha Gedon, Communications Specialist, Agricultural Communications Services, OSU

WE ARE ROLE MODELS (W.A.R.M.)



FAIRNESS

Character Critters News for Parents

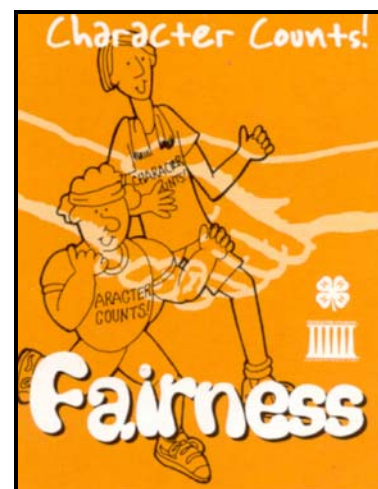
By: Todd Branson



Fairness at Work

- Listen carefully to the concerns of customers and co-workers.
- Treat others as partners helping each other to be successful.
- Understand and follow company rules.
- Share the workload.

For
Another
Individual
Reach
out and be **FAIR.**



One of the six pillars that character education teaches is Fairness. Fairness is an extremely important aspect of our lives today. Whether we are showing at livestock shows or driving down the interstate, being fair can make everyone have a happier and a safer place to live. It is really simple to be a fair person in everything you do. Just follow these simple rules:

- Know and follow the rules
- Share with friends and family
- Listen to friends and family
- Do not blame friends and family

Parents are the most important teachers their children will ever have. On the next page, there are some things parents can do at home to teach their child fairness.

Set up house rules: Make your house rules like the school rules, such as walk, don't run inside. Children do best when they experience success, so try to make rules that are necessary and manageable for young children. Ask the children for ideas about rules.



Share with friends and family: Encourage children to share by giving children opportunities to share, like sharing snacks with friends, splitting a big piece of cake with a brother or sister. Play games where children take turns (board games or card games). Make up your own games.

Do not blame friends and family: This is a hard topic. It takes time and patience to work with children on not blaming others. Children who tell the truth will not blame others. Explain to your children why we tell the truth. Encourage your children to tell the truth by your example.

Fairness in the Family: Family members may have different responsibilities and privileges. For example, a preschooler's bedtime may be 7 p.m., but an elementary school child may get to stay up until 8 p.m. Children often say, "not fair!" It is fair - everyone follows the rules appropriate for their age.

Listen: It's only fair that we listen when our children speak. That way they can learn to listen to others. When children gain skills in listening and speaking, they become negotiators, a true test of fairness.

Parents, please talk about fairness with your child. Mention situations that happen at home. For example, two members of the family want to watch different TV programs. Ask your child, "What would be a fair way to solve this conflict?" Write down what your child says.

What are some family rules?

Letter from the Educator:

<http://countyext.okstate.edu/caddo/youth>

Dear Caddo Co. 4-H Family,

I hope everyone is having a fun and safe summer. Most of the 4-H activities have finally slowed down for the year and this is the season for showing livestock, horses, and working those all too important summer jobs! Many of the things you do in 4-H can really help you as you enter your first month with your summer job or internship. If there is anything that your 4-H Extension Office can do to help you this summer, please do not hesitate to contact us.

This fall we will be starting a technology club for all 4-H'ers in Caddo County. The purpose of this club will be to stay up on all the technology happenings throughout the country, learn new technologies through Microsoft programs such as Powerpoint, Word, and Access, learn about the web and how to design webpages, and maybe even begin to do some updating and website design on the Caddo County 4-H Website. If you are interested in becoming a member in this 4-H club, call or email the extension office and we will provide you with more information as fall nears. I believe this will be an extremely beneficial club for 4-H'ers who are interested in competing in Powerpoint competitions, who are interested in Computer Science as a 4-H project, or those who are interested in going to college to be a Computer Technologist or Computer Scientist. We will be discussing all aspects of technology so begin to collect your questions and let us know if you are interested!

State 4-H Round-Up was a huge success this year! Along with the rest of the staff and volunteers who chaperoned the trip, we were very proud of all the 4-H'ers who attended and we were very pleased with everyone's attitude and professionalism. I highly recommend that anyone old enough to attend Round-Up to prepare this upcoming year to apply and attend. Please refer to our photo gallery on the internet for some pictures of Round-Up! (<http://countyext.okstate.edu/caddo/youth/photo.html>)

One final reminder: 4-H Day Camp will be held June 26, 2002 and the pre-registration deadline is Friday, June 14, 2002. I hope to see **ALL 4-H'ERS** ages 5 up through those in the 6th Grade at Day Camp. If you need more information, the fliers and sign-up lists to help are all on the website. The theme for this year's day camp is:

"4-H is a Tropical Breeze!"

I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer. If there is anything that we can do to assist you in any way, please feel free to call, email, or visit the Caddo County 4-H Extension Office.

Sincerely,

Todd Branson

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June-July 2002

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Time</u>
June 7-9	4-H District Horse Show	--
June 18-20	Canadian Co. Day Camp	Roman Nose
June 20-22	State 4-H Horse Show	Enid
June 26	4-H Day Camp	8:40am Fairgrounds
July 11	Caddo/Grady Field Day	TBA
July 16-18	OSU Field Days	TBA
July 19-20	State Vol Leader Conference	--
July 10-20	PHBA World Horse Show	Tulsa

Other events may arise and scheduling may alter. For the most accurate information, please refer to: <http://countyext.okstate.edu/caddo/youth>