



4-H Clover Connection

March 2006

TEXAS COUNTY

Recognition Plays Key Role In Oklahoma 4-H Program



The Share-The-Fun event goes off without a hitch. The spring livestock show is even more successful than in past years. Several members of the local shooting sports club qualify to take part in the state competition.

What common denominator do all of these events have in common? Adult and youth volunteers. Karla Knoepfli, assistant Extension specialist, said both adult and youth volunteers devote much of their time and resources to help ensure the continued success of the Oklahoma 4-H Program.

“Adequate and sincere recognition is essential to keep morale and job satisfaction at the highest possible level,” Knoepfli said. “In the 4-H program, recognition has two purposes. One is to acknowledge and show approval of the individual’s contributions, and the second is to motivate the volunteer to continue service and commitment to the organization.”

There have been a number of studies conducted that show the forms of recognition that brought the greatest amount of satisfaction to a volunteer leader, youth participant, parent and Extension educator. Those forms of recognition include a sincere compliment, a note of appreciation, an invitation to participate in decision-making processes because of the person’s ability to think and plan, and increased responsibility.

Knoepfli said volunteers are driven to action by three primary categories, including achievement, affiliation and power.

“The achievement-motivated volunteer is both task and goal oriented,” she said. “These particular individuals will stay involved with the task and see it through completion. In addition, they need tangible rewards, prefer specific boundaries

to evaluate success and view problems as challenges.”

The volunteer who is motivated through affiliation works best in groups and needs personal interaction.

“These volunteers enjoy having personal relationships with supervisors and co-workers. They work most easily with people they know well,” Knoepfli said. “They also seek socialization opportunities, need to be liked and listened to and enjoy the involvement of group projects.”

“They especially enjoy teaching others and are able to respond to identified needs,” she said. “These volunteers are attentive to the specific goals of the organization as a whole, respond to titles which denote authority, will seek and accept positions of authority and responsibility and are persuasive and self-starting.”

A study that was conducted in 1998 indicates that most adult volunteers are motivated to continue serving the organization by an affiliation with the clientele, such as 4-H members or the organization itself, rather than by achievement and power motives such as recognition banquets, rewards or serving in leadership positions.

“The recognition which most tenured 4-H volunteers in that study preferred was a simple handwritten thank-you note, sent by a 4-H member with whom they interacted,” Knoepfli said. “This study also indicated that the most meaningful recognition is that expressed to the individual at a meeting, written note or spontaneous ‘pat on the back.’ In addition, the most meaningful formal recognition occurred at the county and local level. Efforts should equally emphasize informal, intrinsic and personal recognition while also continuing more formalized activities.”



Farm Credit Show Animal Loan

Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma recently implemented a new program designed to encourage the growth of beginning agriculturalists. Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma feels that taking an active role in supporting the next generation of farmers and ranchers is a necessity in securing the future of Oklahoma agriculture. The FFA/4-H Project Funding Program's purpose is to allocate funds for the purchase of livestock for resale by active FFA/4-H members.

Program requirements are as follows:

- Individuals must be active members in either 4-H or FFA programs
- Individuals may not be over the age of 18
- The maximum amount each individual may receive through the FFA/4-H Project Funding Program in \$1,000.00 per year
- Loan is interest free
- Funding may only be used for the purchase of livestock
- Full repayment is due upon sale of the animal or one year from the date of purchase, whichever occurs first

Please keep in mind that this is a funding program. Only the initial amount advanced is to be reimbursed upon sale of the purchased livestock. This program is designed to support area FFA and 4-H members in their agricultural projects.

Applications may be acquired by contacting Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma's Guymon office at (580) 338-3828 or (866) 691-2267 or Aaron Witt. There is not a deadline on this application.

State 4-H Qualifying Livestock Judging Contest

Where: OSU Animal Science Arena

When: April 15, 2006 at 8:00 a.m.

What: 8 class of livestock with 4 sets of oral reasons

Two winning teams are eligible to compete in Louisville, Kentucky or Kansas City national contests.

For further information contact the OSU Extension office.

Horse Certification

Persons interested in showing horses at the District Horse show must have their horses certified before

they can be entered. If you need a certification form, please contact the OSU Extension office.

Seward County Community College Sale Dates

- Block & Bridle Pig Sale- -April 7th @ 7:00 p.m.
- Beaver County Pig Sale- -April 8th @ 2:00 p.m.
- Winners Only Lamb Sale- -April 14th @ 7:00 p.m.

4-H Roundup

Applications for attendance at **Roundup** will be due in Stillwater by April 28th. We'll need them in our office by April 21st. The cost will be \$95.00.

Roundup is scheduled for May 24-26, 2006. If a parent would like to serve as a chaperone, we are looking for help. Mark your calendar and make plans to go to **Roundup**- every 4-H member who has ever gone- always wants to return. Lots of fun and education!

Town Hall Meeting

Leaders: We would like to have you attend the Town Hall meeting on "Underage Drinking." The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28th at Guymon High School Commons Area. It will begin at 6 p.m.- a light meal will be served. The purpose of the Town Hall meeting will be to begin a planning process to address the issue of underage drinking. Please bring as many 10-19 years old 4-H members as you can. We'll have media coverage on this nation-wide program.

We'll have a speaker, planning session and fun activities. We need you there! Also, invite others from your community (police, school officials, etc.) that may have concerns about this issue.

Events & Activities Forms

All who are involved in the 4-H program will need to fill out an *Events & Activities* form and have it on file in the Texas County OSU Extension office- prior to any activity or event that is offered under the 4-H name. Anytime something is done using the 4-H name, the office must know about it due to liability issues. So, before you plan a livestock showing clinic, a livestock judging workout, a fund-raiser, a petting zoo, etc —you must submit an *Events & Activities* report. These are available at the Extension office and may be faxed to us after completion. Our fax number is (580) 338-0042.

2006 Youth Forestry and Wildlife Camp Applicants Sought

50th Annual Camp Provides Outdoor Learning Adventure



Beavers Bend State Park, OK- -T-I-M-B-E-R!!!! Move quickly or miss out on this summer's most exciting outdoor adventure. The 50th Annual Oklahoma Youth Forestry & Wildlife Camp happens June 5-10 at Oklahoma's Beaver Bend State Park and applications are being taken now!

"The Youth Forestry and Wildlife Camp is a tradition in Oklahoma," says Camp Operations Director Gina Lagaly. "But let me warn you. . .this year's camp will definitely not be "business as usual." We're stirring things up and I can promise that learning about forestry and wildlife has never been more fun."

According to Lagaly, the camp is geared to youth aged 11 (entering 6th grade) to 14 years old that have expressed a desire to learn more about conservation, wildlife or forestry and that enjoy learning in the outdoors.

"Kids don't go to Space Camp to swim and play volleyball, and we expect that youth coming to Forestry and Wildlife camp will come to learn and investigate possible careers that will interest them," she said. "This is an adventure that has the potential to shape the future of our world."

Older youth may also have an opportunity to participate in the camp. Camp counselors ages 17 to 19 are being sought for the weeklong learning experience. Counselors should be mature, responsible young adults with an interest in outdoor careers such as forestry or wildlife, and have the ability to guide younger youth throughout the camp.

Camper and Camp Counselor applications will be accepted until April 1, 2006 and can be obtained by logging on to www.whatisforestry.org, or by calling (405) 522-6158. Camper applications must be accompanied by a letter of reference from a teacher, counselor, principal, or club leader that has personal knowledge of the camper's interest and conduct.

The registration fee for campers is \$175.00 and covers all costs including meals, transportation at camp, field trips, and workshops.

A-FAMILY A-FAIR

The 8th Annual A-Family A-Fair is rapidly approaching. It is scheduled for April 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Each 4-H club in the county is asked to provide 1 or more mini-booths, **within the county booth**, which will focus on "4-H. . .It's A Bright Idea!" "Safety" is the theme. It is possible for each club to have several activities going on from your club. If you need help, contact Arleen at the office.

Reservation forms are due by March 15th- -leaders will be receiving them soon. Make copies, if needed. I hope that at least 50% of your club membership will be involved in this event—it's fun!

Safety is paramount in our lives and most project areas have a safety component. I look forward to seeing what is put together.

We are trying to have the following contests on that day during the event- -so come have fun and do a safety educational-fun hands-on activity:

- *Texas County American Idol*
- *Texas County Star Dancers*
- *Hoop Shoot*
- *The Baby Crawl*
- *and Best Fresh Salsa Contest!*

Dress Fashion Revue & Impressive Dress Contest

When: Saturday, April 29, 2006

Where: Hooker Church of Christ Fellowship Hall

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Dress Revue Entries: (Items to be modeled)

9-11 year olds:

Chef Apron (pattern from office)

Tote Bag (pattern from office)

Skirt w/elastic waist

Shorts w/elastic waist

Simple two-piece active sportswear

(shorts and pull-over top is an example)

Decorated ready-made (purchased) shirt

Items to be judged and displayed:

9-11 year olds:

Pillowcase (pattern from office)

Laundry Tote (pattern from office)

Simple Curtains

Simple Garment Bag (pattern from office)

12-14 year olds: (items to be modeled)

Bath robe

Pull on Top w/coordinating bottom

Shorts, Pants, Skirt w/waistband

One-piece Dress or Jumper or Jumpsuit

Two-piece Garment

Decorated Garment

Items to be judged and displayed:

Blanket w/binding

Duffel Bag

Recycled Garment

Decorated Garment w/decorative stitches, braid, etc.

15 years & up: (items to be modeled)

Special Activity Garment

Two-piece Ensemble

Lined Skirt

Unlined Raincoat, Poncho, Slicker

Unlined Garment

Coat lined or unlined

Special Occasion Garment

Garment from Specialty Fabric

Garment from another textile product

Items to be judged and displayed:

One-piece of Specialty Luggage

Back-Pack, Day-Pack or Fanny-Pack

Two-pieces of travel accessories

Again this year you may also bring the following to be judged: (Each level can sew, knit or crochet)

Must be your own work!)



- Decorative Pillow
- Novelty Pillow
- Purse from Fabric
- Purse from other materials (i.e.) kool-aid packages, flower seed packets
- Items made from fleece material
- Knitted item
- Crocheted item
- Pot holders (2)
- Placemats (2)
- Stuffed Animal or Doll
- Wall hanging , incorporating hand or machine stitching
- Stitched hanging storage unit from fabric

All sewn items need to be in Arleen's possession NLT 5:00 p.m. on April 28, 2006 w/enclosed entry form completed in 4-H members own handwriting. Be sure and answer the questions on the back of the entry form for Fashion/Dress Revue.

Check your county handbook for more info!



Illustrated Presentations Contest Reminder!

When: March 27th

**Where: Texas County OSU Extension
Service Conference Room**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

RSVP by: March 20th

Please refer to February Newsletter for more details or contact Arleen or Steve at the office.

We greatly appreciate our volunteers and what you are doing for the youth in Texas County by giving your time and knowledge to such a worthwhile organization. This article was taken from the Morton County, KS Newsletter.

THIS I BELIEVE

The 4-H boys and girls are more important than the 4-H project.

4-H is a people program. Its objective is to develop the boy and girl. The project is a vehicle of interest we use to reach the youngster.

No 4-H award is worth sacrificing the reputation of a 4-H member or leader.

Awards, such as are available in the 4-H program, may tempt parents, leaders, or members to shortcut ethical means in order to attain them. When temptation rears its ugly head we need to be prepared to cope with it.

What kind of moral standards and values have we imparted to youngsters which they can use as a gauge for their behavior?

What kind of aspirations do we hold for the youngster? Are they realistic in terms of his or her goals, or are we imposing our goals upon them?

Learning how to do the project is more important than the project itself.

We need to look closer at what learning has taken place within the club member. What has this youngster gained which will be usable in the future?

4-H is all about the development of the boy and girl. The project is the vehicle of interest we use to work with the member. Its importance lies in the degree of interest to the youngster.

**“Volunteers work for dreams. . .Volunteers give the
greatest gift they can. . .themselves.”**

DON'T FORGET YOUR GREEN ON THE 17TH!



This newsletter is one way of communicating educational information to the residents of Texas County and others. For free subscription, contact The Texas County OSU Extension Center, P.O. Box 320, 301 N. Main St., Guymon, OK 73942, or phone us at 580-338-7300. Our email is ocestxco@ptsi.net and visit our web site at countyext.okstate.edu/texas. The information given herein is for educational purposes only, references to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsements by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is implied. The OCES offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of gender, race, color, age, disability, religion, national origin or status as a veteran and is an Equal Opportunity employer. Arleen James, Extension Educator FCS/4H/CED and Steve Kraich, Extension Educator AG/4H of Texas County.

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