

September 2008

Tolland County 4-H Newsletter

University of Connecticut Department of Extension

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Dear 4-H members, volunteers and parents,

Where did the summer go? Although fall is not officially here yet, the start of school signals fall to me. Seeing mums and pumpkins at road side stands and on doorsteps does the same. Hopefully you are all settled into your new school routine with new classes and new activities that bring new challenges for you. I do want to take the time to thank everyone that worked so hard all summer on 4-H projects and on the 4-H fair. Fair advisors and teen fair board members all worked hard so the rest of you could experience a great 4-H fair. Many parents and volunteers helped in the food booth, the parking booth and all over the fair grounds. But it takes your projects to make it a 4-H fair. I enjoyed seeing so many of them – some new and creative ones – some new 4-Hers and some new animals like the llamas - all helped to make the fair a wonderful experience for 4-Hers and the public as well. Now begins to task of improving on what we have already done and start planning for the 2009 4-H Fair. It takes the fair board all year to do that. If you are a teen and are interested in helping there are many new openings on fair board. The board meets once a month; if you would like to join in the work and the fun, give me a call or send me an e-mail rosemarie.syme@uconn.edu and I will pass your name on to the nominating committee. It is also the time to pass on your suggestions for the next fair. We love to consider new ideas, new classes or new activities that will make each fair a new experience.

Just a few reminders: September 30th is the end of the current 4-H year. Take the time to go back to your record books and complete them. Include your fair experiences, additional expenses and experiences that you had. How close did you come to meeting the goals that you set at the beginning of last year? October 1st starts the 2009 4-H year, everyone must re-enroll again either as a club member or as an individual member. We would like to have all of your enrollments by December 1st. New members can always be added during the year. Remember all adults that are helping with the club must be registered volunteers and have a volunteer application on file at the Extension Office.

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4-H Clubs Invited to Coventry Farmers' Market

4-H clubs have a great opportunity to participate in Coventry's farmers' market on October 5th, 11 AM—2 PM for 4-H/FFA day at the market. This is a large farmers' market with great attendance. Clubs are invited to display their projects, do a demonstration or to make and sell items. The Coventry Farmers' Market is held on the grounds of the Nathan Hale Homestead. Connie Swetzes (860-742-1434) is organizing the 4-H participation at the market. Call her to express your interest and intent to participate. This date is also the start of National 4-H Week, so it is a great time to let the public know what your club is doing and perhaps to raise a few dollars as well.

Clover Country CD

Faith Hill, Martina McBride, Sugarland, Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, Hillary Lindsey, Vince Gill, Johnny Cash, Glen Campbell, Luke Bryan, and Alabama, famous 4-H alumni, created a CD that is available at the 4-H office. It sells for \$10 and makes a great holiday gift for 4-H alumni, 4-H leaders, or anyone on your gift list.

2008 Quiet Ride for the Cure

Sunday, October 5, 2008, Tyrone Farm, Pomfret, CT. Rider's must be 12 or older. Held rain or shine. Visit www.quietcornerside.com or call event registrar #860963-9055 for more information. Deadline to enter is September 15, 2008.

Celebrating Agriculture

The seventh annual Celebrating Agriculture event will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2008 from 9 AM to 3 PM, rain or shine, at the Woodstock Fairgrounds on Route 169, Woodstock, CT. Admission and parking are free and all events are open to the public. A hearty farm breakfast is available for a small donation.

Events include agricultural displays, demonstrations, cooking and logging contests, forestry fair, farm equipment, entertainment, food, a farmers' market, hay rides, tour of Fairvue Farms, children's activities, horses, cows, and more! Visit the website: <http://www.celebratingagriculture.org> for more info.

2008 National 4-H Week

2008 National 4-H week is October 5—11, 2008. National 4-H Week is held every year as a time to celebrate, promote, and share the 4-H positive youth development movement. This year 4-H youth across the country will be "Keeping it Green" by raising awareness about environmental issues and initiating environmental projects that make a positive difference in their communities.

Throughout National 4-H week and the year, 4-H'ers solve problems in their communities, raise awareness about environmental issues, and make a difference for their futures in the spirit of 4-H's vision to create a world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for positive change.

Plan an event for your community. Check out some ideas at: www.4HBrandNetwork.org.

2008 National Youth Science Day

Chevy Chase, MD (September 8, 2008) - National 4-H council announced details of the first –ever National Science Experiment, (NSE) the designated science activity of 4-H National Youth Science Day to be held October 8, 2008. The National Science Experiment will focus on the environment and will use science principles to teach youth across the country about the importance of water conservation. Science education expert Steve Spangler worked closely with 4-H and Dr. Bob Horton, 4-H science education specialist for the Ohio State University Extension, to create NSE and related activities, which will be available to the 6 million 4-H youth organizations nationwide.

Youth who participate in the National Science Experiment will examine the properties of water-absorbing polymers, which are long chains of molecules that can be used in environmental applications such as agriculture, erosion control, soil management, and environmental clean-ups. Youth of all ages will test the effectiveness of polymers in an easy-to-administer soil and water experiment and post findings online to engage in dialogue with fellow youth nationwide.

One of the goals of the experiment is to encourage youth to discuss the potential impact of superabsorbent polymers as well as environmental issues relating to water conservation and groundwater contamination.

"The National Science Experiment is a hands-on project with practical benefits that educate youth about our environment — all the while making science fun," said Dr. Horton. "The experiment helps youth not only understand how superabsorbent polymers can be used in horticulture, gardening, landscaping, and specialty crop farming, but also how they can address water conservation and groundwater contamination issues in their own community."

4-H National Youth Science Day was announced in June alongside a new public service campaign "One Million New Scientists. One Million New Ideas™." "The campaign supports the organization's long-term goal of attracting one million new youth to 4-H science, engineering, and technology programs by the year 2013. For more information on National Youth Science Day, go to www.4-H.org.

If you are interested in participating call Linda Horn at the Hartford County Extension Center 860-570-9074.

Northeast Regional Volunteer Forum

The Northeast Regional Volunteer Forum will take place from October 23-26, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH. Scholarship funds will be available for Connecticut 4-H volunteers attending the conference through a grant received from National 4-H Council partnered with Monsanto Corporation. This is always a terrific conference, a way to meet leaders from the northeast and to get new ideas for your program and club activities.

To learn more about the conference or to get registration materials go to: <http://extension.unh.edu/4H/4HVol/08NEVF.htm>

photo Workshop



Have you always wanted to take that beautiful photograph worthy of framing?

Do you wonder how the pro's do it?

Do your photos seem "off"?

Well this workshop is for you!!!

Professional photographer Fred Bird will present a workshop on, learning to see and creative thinking in your photography.

This is NOT a technical photo workshop, but rather a re-learning of how to see the world and creating more beautiful photographs. Suitable for all ages: 4-H'ers, leaders, parents, grandparents

Where: Tolland Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Ave., Vernon

When: Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008, 10:30 to Noon

**Cost: \$3 Refreshments will be provided. \$2 for 4-H'ers
Payable at the door**

More Information: Tolland County 4-H Office 875-3331

Pre-registration is strongly suggested, but not necessary!

Fred has his own studio in Ellington where he does portrait photography. He is also a board certified evidence photographer working with the Ellington Fire Dept. His sense of humor and enthusiasm for this subject makes this a "can't miss opportunity."

ESE New England Center—Activity Booths

Sunday, September 28th, 4-H'ers can run a booth as an ongoing educational presentation involving one or two people demonstrating to the public, something learned in 4-H. The presentation is repeated over and over again. Booths continue from 10 AM to 5 PM.

For more information contact Nancy Wilhelm, State 4-H Office, 1376 Storrs Rd., Storrs, CT 06269-4134 or email: nancy.wilhelm@uconn.edu.

Cornucopia Fest 2008—Sunday, October 5th

Cornucopia Fest is the annual outreach event of the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Visitors get answers to their questions on the environment, agricultural issues, biotechnology, gardening, food safety, diet and nutrition, water quality, animals, pest management, hayrides, the Cornucopia Cup polo match, and other activities. Everyone is invited.

2008 UConn Barnyard Beef Sale (Silent Auction) and Judging Workshop & Contest

Due to multiple reasons, including shortage of staff in the University of Connecticut's Department of Animal Science, the Annual Beef Calf Auction will not be held, however, there will be a UConn Barnyard Sale (silent auction) and judging contest on Saturday, November 1, 2008 at UConn's Livestock Unit located on Horsebarn Hill Road, Storrs campus. The sale will be conducted as a silent auction with published minimum bids. The sale will begin at 1 PM following the Judging Contest and animal inspection. In October, a schedule for the Judging Workshop & Contest and a list of animals to be sold at the silent auction will be posted on the website: www.canr/uconn.edu/ansci/beef/beefcalfsale.htm

Linda Palmer -- Thanks

Thank You Linda!

Linda Palmer did an awesome job working in the Extension Office on 4-H programs all summer. She worked with many 4-H fair committees, many 4-Hers and the 4-H fair board members. She also had many ideas and planned some programs that will take place as we move into fall. The Photography workshop is one of them. One of her goals is to see more Tolland County 4-Hers enter the State Photography Contest later in the year. Thanks Linda. We already miss you in the office.

Foreign Opportunity for Pen Pals

Hi 4-H Military Liaisons..

One of our 4-H clubs in Camp Zama, Japan is interested in finding other 4-H'ers that are interested in becoming pen pals. Clubs interested are asked to contact Valda Campbell, director of the Camp Zama SAS program at the email: mailto:nakatsuk@hawaii.edu

Thank you, Claire M. Nakatsuka

This a good opportunity to find out first hand what 4-Hers in another part of the world are doing in 4-H and a way to share what they are doing in school.

2008 4-H Program Calendar

September

13 4-H Day at the Big E

28 CT 4-H Day at New England Center

4-H Fairboard meets the second Wednesday of every month.

October

5 4-H/FFA Day at Coventry Farmers' Market

5 Breast Cancer—Ride for the Cure- Pomfret, CT

5 Cornucopia Fest, UConn

5-11 National 4-H Week

18 4-H Fair & Awards Banquet

25 Photo Workshop

November

1 UConn Beef Sale & Judging Contest

2008 Fair-teamwork at its best

Ask any advisor to this year's fair what they thought was the best part of the fair and they will respond, "The teamwork." More than one advisor commented on how little their cell phone rang over the weekend. Fairboard members were visible all over the fairgrounds working to make this one of the smoothest running fairs.

Friday afternoon (following the sheep show) found 4-H'ers, leaders, parents and the public locked in barns for about an hour waiting out a thunderstorm, but it wouldn't be the Tolland County 4-H Fair without a weather delay. Rich, from Bountiful Harvest, had a lot of help bringing his furniture into the green barn to protect it from the rain. Much thanks to the grounds and safety committee. Our swine show was delayed while we waited for the storm to pass, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of exhibitors. Mrs. Kegler had some well prepared showmen to judge

Saturday dawned sunny and warm, a perfect day to welcome former 4-H'er Ashley Holden back as judge of the beef show. The dairy goat class had over 34

exhibitors and followed the beef show. As always the evening olympics were a big draw for juniors and seniors. There were many fairboard members at the evening meeting covered in sawdust—an indication of its success!

The weekend wrapped up with Premier Showman on Sunday, judged by another former 4-H'er, Kathy Benoit. Mary Swtezes won the coveted title of 2008 Premier Showman, with Gabby Cohen a close second. Congratulations to all who participated!

Thanks to all the 4-H'ers and their families who helped break down the barns Sunday at the close of the fair. We were able to get it done in record time with only a few glitches.

Former 4-H'ers give back at 2008 fair.

This year we saw MANY former 4-H'ers come back to help with the fair. Coming back to judge were Jeremy Chartier for the poultry class, Wendy Picard for the English ring at the horse show, Ashley Holden - beef, Dawn Dube - rabbits and Kathy Benoit for dairy and premier showman. We thank these alumni for sharing their experience with the next generation.

Ashley Lanz, and Kate Cohen worked as dairy steward and goat steward respectively keeping those areas running smoothly, while poultry saw the return of Sarah Bergeron.

In other areas we had Matt Perreira in grounds and safety, and Ethan Smith and Becky Palmer in the food booth.

It's always gratifying to see alumni give back to an organization that gave them so much.

Our Annual Barn Dance was a "Fiesta"

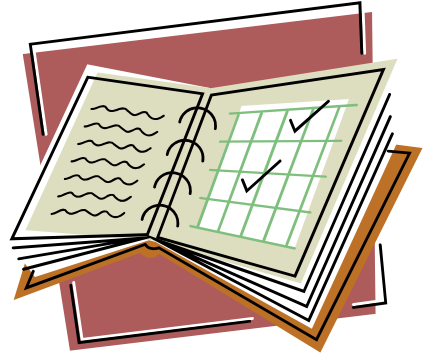
Our tradition of kicking off fair week with a dance got us all off to a great start this year. We had many fairboard members decorating the green barn on Friday morning. Many thanks to those of you who were able to help. The barn looked great for the evening's festivities.

Over 60 4-H'ers and friends enjoyed dancing, eating, games and prizes. We look forward to next year



Calendar

Tolland County 4-H





Tolland County 4-H Award Recommendation Form



4-H members may be nominated for awards by their 4-H leaders or parents. 4-Hers may be nominated in any of their project areas by attaching this form to the 4-H members Record Book and submitting it by Oct. 3rd to the 4-H office at 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066. No submissions will be considered after this date. Awards will be presented to recipients at the Annual 4-H Fair Meeting and County Awards night held in October. 4-H members may be nominated for the following awards:

County Recognition Certificates may be awarded to 4-H members of any age who have done an outstanding job in a project area for at least two (2) years. Certificates may be received more than once if the 4-H members continues to show growth and outstanding progress in the project area. Certificates are not a prerequisite for receiving a county medal but continue to show growth and citizenship in the project area. Leader recommendation required—on back of this sheet.

County Medals may be awarded to 4-H members that are twelve (12) years or older as of January 1st of the project year. A county medal is usually awarded in a project area only once. The possibility of receiving a second county medal award in the same project area occurs only when continued outstanding growth is shown in the project area. 4-H Record Book and Leader Recommendation are required.

The nominee must:

- Be involved in the project area for which he/she is recommended for at least three (3) years
- Exhibit continued growth and outstanding work in the project area
- Exhibit leadership and citizenship in sharing/teaching project skills to other 4-hers

4-H Member Awards

County Medal Awards are available in the following areas. Please indicate on the front side of this form which area the 4-H member is being nominated for. **Recognition Certificates** may be awarded in any area in which a 4-H member has met the criteria, not only those areas listed below.

Achievement	Agriculture	Beef	Child Care
Citizenship	Clothing	Dairy	Dairy Foods
Dog	Entomology	Forestry	Gardening
Dairy Goat	Health	Horse	Leadership
Poultry	Public Speaking	Photography	Rabbit
Safety	Sheep	Wood Science	Swine
Fashion Revue	Veterinary Science	Energy Management	
Fitness Leadership	Leisure/Pleasure	Food & Nutrition	
Food Conservation, Preservation & Safety		Conservation & Natural Resources	
Conservation & Natural Resources			



Other Awards

BEVERLY VREDENBURG

OUTSTANDING 4-H HORSE MEMBER AWARD

This award is given in memory of former 4-H leader, extension office secretary and all around 4-H supporter Bev Vredenburg. Bev was an important part of the horse program in Tolland County for many years. She was a constant source of information and guidance for 4-H members and their leaders. This award in her honor is to be presented annually to a 4-H'er who shows outstanding involvement in a Horse Project. Qualifications include an up-to-date record book detailing Leadership and Citizenship activities and Connecticut 4-H Recognition form.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. 4-H'ers must have carried out a horse project for minimum of two years.
2. Previous year's record book will be judged on completeness through Sept.30th current year's book will be judged on completeness through submittal date.
3. Must be standard 4-H project record for horse.
4. Past winner are eligible to complete.
5. Award is to be judged on: 50% Horse Project, 25% Leadership and 25% Citizenship.
6. 4-H members are strongly encouraged to submit an application for themselves. 4-H leaders may also submit recommendations for qualifying members. Forms for this are available through the extension office.
7. The 4-H Advisory Committee will select the recipient, and the award will be presented in October.

Club Citizenship Award

CLUB CITIZENSHIP AWARDS—Has your club done something interesting this year? A special project or an interesting community service experience? Submit your story to the Tolland County 4-H office by October 3, to be considered for the club citizenship award, which will be presented at the October 18th awards dinner. This is a \$50 award sponsored by the Tolland County 4-H Advisory Committee, that can be used by your club in any way and/or to support other community service activities. Special interest to the committee this year would be ideas your club did to promote "The Clover Goes Green" theme. In case of a tied score, preference will be given to a club that has not received this award before.

Recommendation

Name _____ Number of Years in 4-H _____

Age _____ Name of Club _____

Check One

County Recognition Certificate
Leader Recommendation

County Medal
Record Book must be submitted

Leader's Signature _____ Date _____

Please write and attach a statement of why this member should be considered for the recognition requested. Include things such as quality of work, attendance, motivation, what you have observed he or she has learned, and leadership. Please be specific. State actual events where the applicant exhibited behavior that qualifies him/her for this award.

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