4-H Horizons

Volume 12, Issue 4 May 2012

Chelan and Douglas Counties 4-H
400 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Special points of interest:

- Show the world what you have done—report your volunteer hours.
- Bring your ideas to Leaders' Council Meetings

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4-H Clubs Thrive in Postwar Iraq

By Nirvi Shah

About twice a month, thousands of Iraqi youth gather across their country and make a very American pledge to use their heads, hearts, hands, and health for the greater good of their community, their country, and the world. It's the traditional promise of the 110-year-old 4-H Club.

Although most American troops have pulled out of Iraq, the 4-H Club remains. The club was imported about 3 years ago by a USDA employee who was sent to help women develop their dairy-management skills. The organization now counts more than 3,000 Iraqi youths among its members.

While 4-H is often associated with rural America, its core mission is actually positive youth development, and that is much of the focus of the chapters in Iraq.

"I don't care where the idea came from [for 4-H], whether from America or another country," Mustafa Hussain, 17 year old 4-H member said. "I don't want 4-H to end."

From Cows to Kids

Neither does Mary Kerstetter, who works for the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. She was tasked with teaching women in Anwar province dairy management and how to improve dairy production. She also taught Iraqis how to manage greenhouses. The goal was to teach modern agricultural technology.

Her focus quickly shifted, however.

"Sometimes when you're working with the adults, they're averse to learning new technology," Ms. Kerstetter said. "Kids are kind of like a blank page on a book—you can really do something with them."

Initially, the Anwar province clubs studied sheep breeds, wool products, and how to raise sheep. Ms. Kerstetter taught them about sheep breeds from around the world, working in geography lessons and notes about forms of government in other sheep-rich countries. She taught them about products made from sheep aside from mutton and wool, such as soccer balls and cosmetics. "I just wanted to broaden their horizons," she said.

That is the mission of 4-H overseas, said Hiram Larew, of the USDA. The creation of 4-H clubs in Iraq brought the number of countries with 4-H chapters to 81, not counting the

Schedule Notes

Please note that Michelle Morrison will be out of town from May 19-June 1, and not available. Please contact the 4-H office 667-6540 with questions.

4-H in Iraq (continued)

U.S., which has 6 million 4-H members. Many overseas clubs started as the chapters in Iraq did, following U.S. military occupation or presence.

"We consider 4-H as a key strength in the U.S. diplomatic strategy," Mr. Larew said. "Anything that allows us to reach kids that we would not otherwise and, through kids, reach parents is potentially a very powerful tool to help and enable to help not only the current generation but the next generation."

Expanding Frontiers

The USDA would like to expand 4-H to other embattled countries like sub-Saharan Africa, South America, parts of Asia, and countries that were once part of the Soviet Union.

Because the clubs engage and educate youths, they aren't always welcome, said Lisa Lauxman, the director of the division of youth and 4-H at the USDA institute. "Some people see that as a threat"

Youth empowerment is a clear goal of the 4-H presence in Iraq, where some clubs spend time discussing the ills of war, encourage trust in the police and courts systems, and preach that women and men have equal rights.

"This [equal-rights theme] is very significant over there," Ms. Kerstetter said. "I know these kids are going to be different."

The clubs mix children who are rich with those who are poor, children of politicians with those whose parents do manual labor. Some clubs mix boys and girls and ethnic and religious groups.

"They are accepting each other as normal people; these kids are going to be leaders in 15 years," Ms. Kerstetter said.

Eventually, her USDA assignment took her to Baghdad, where she began more 4-H chapters and was connected with Mohammed Lafta, who soon became enamored with 4-H.

Passing the Torch

"It's important here because it's the first program that looks at the children and their goals for the future," he said. "Other than 4-H, there is no such program."

Since Ms. Kerstetter left Iraq last June, Mr. Lafta has taken up leadership of the organization and pressed for its expansion. At least one chapter has formed in each of Iraq's 18 provinces. Activities across the country vary from raising animals to visiting museums and historical sites to planting trees. The 4-Hers also work on public-speaking skills and building confidence.

"At the first day when I was in 4-H, I [was] very shy and I felt scared," said Sama Almosley, 16, who is a 4-H member in one of the Baghdad 4-H clubs. "But now I'm self confident." Ms. Almosley is also learning to use a computer for the first time.

Ms. Kerstetter wants to get more computers and financial support for the clubs, which don't have an established governmental support system as American 4-H does. In the United States, land-grant universities and extension services help support the clubs.

"This is the kind of thing that deserves support over there," she said. "At the start of 4-H, some of these kids didn't have any hope for the future. Now they believe they can make a difference. It really touches you."

Bi-County Horse Gaming?

Bi-County Horse Council would like to re-establish 4-H Gaming. So they are looking for someone who would be willing to take the lead for of a Gaming Division for Bi-County and for Chelan County Fair.

If you are interested or have further questions, please contact Thera Judd (509)884-4769.

2012 Pacific NW 4-H Horse Judges' School Announced

Washington State 4-H is pleased to be the host for the 2012 Pacific Northwest 4-H Horse Judges School. A comprehensive training for current and prospective 4-H horse judges, 4-H leaders, and parents. It is slated for **October 4-7, 2012** at the Fairgrounds in Cowlitz County.

For schedule of events, registration form and further information go to the PNW website: http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/horse-judges-trainings

4-H In Legislative News

The 2012 legislative session is over. The Fair Fund remains at the same amount appropriated last year. That is $1,750,000 per year for 2012 and 2013. That is a decrease of $250,000 per year from full funding, but considering that it was proposed to eliminate Fair Funding entirely, remaining stable is huge. It will be about a month or so before checks can be issued.

HB 2356 Concerning state capital funding of health and safety improvements at agricultural fairs. The grant program that has been available for county fairs will now be open to local governments and nonprofit organizations for capital projects that make health or safety improvements to agricultural fairgrounds or fair facilities in order to benefit participants and the fair-going public. If your fair is interested, contact the Department of Agriculture for more information. Rep. Warnick shepherded this bill.

SHB 2299 Creates "4-H" special license plates. It will go into effect 1/1/2013.

Fair Superintendent Training

There will be a Superintendent Training, May 12, 5-7pm, Chelan County Fairgrounds. It is for anyone who is a superintendent for NCW or Chelan Ccounty Fair. Those who would be interested in a superintendent role for next year could come and check it out as well. Contact Linda McEdwards with questions or to RSVP at rbtldy1@aol.com or 782-7600.

Volunteers Are the Heartbeat of 4-H

submitted by Pat BoyEs

Part of the process of preparing the annual Federal Report of Extension Work in Washington State of course involves gathering all sorts of 4-H statistics and impacts. One of the continuing OMG moments for me in gathering all those numbers is the incredible number of hours 4-H volunteers give in service to young people. In 2011, 6,187 4-H volunteers gave over 686,757 hours of service. That means that the average volunteer gives two hours per week or 111 hours per year of their time in support of their communities and youth. I am amazed how, despite very challenging times, 4-H volunteers carve so much time out of their lives to contribute to the impacts of 4-H on young lives. And please remember that many, many volunteers far exceed 111 hours per year, but when averaged across all 4-H volunteers, the number is still very impressive! Those 686,757 hours of service translates into a dollar value of $14,969,435! Are you as amazed and impressed as I am?

Teen Leadership Meeting

All 4-H Intermediates and Seniors

Are invited to a **Teen Leadership Meeting,** Wednesday May 2, 6:30 pm, at the 4-H Office, 400 Washington St., Wenatchee.

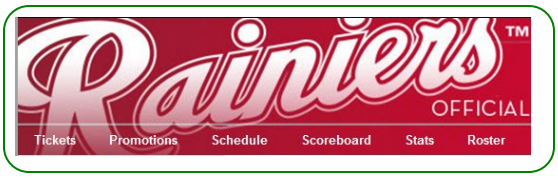
What is this all about?

That is for you to decide!

Let's gather to come up with a name for our newly formed club as well as brain-storm about what we want to accomplish as the 4-H Teens of Chelan & Douglas Counties. (Organize combined county all club social activities [pot-luck picnic, ice skating party, sledding party, wildflower hike…..], host the district Teen Rally, adopt a community service project, sponsor teen fun events, prepare and attend Know-Your-Government together……?)

Let's get to know the other 4-H teens so we can make a difference in our Counties and take part in all of the State activities together!

4-H Nights at the Tacoma Rainiers!



Attention 4-H youth! Join your fellow members, family, and friends for a night of fun at the new Cheney Stadium! The Tacoma Rainiers and 4-H have partnered together for two great nights. Cheer on the Rainiers as they take on the Round Rock Express on **May 12th**, or the Sacramento River Cats on **June 2nd**! Get a reserved seat, hot dog, chips, beverage, and group recognition on our video board for only **$10 per person**! Stick around after the game to Run the Bases! If interested, please contact Alexandra Snyder at (253) 722-2085 or asnyder@tacomarainiers.com

Henhouse Coaching Clinic

What: Henhouse Coaching Clinic for WA, ID and OR

When: **Thursday, May 17** from 1-5pm & **Friday, May 18** from 9am-4pm

Where: WSU Lewis County Extension, Conference room #003, 351 NW North St., Chehalis, WA 98532

Topics to be covered: Thursday--Breeding & Selection, Friday--Veterinary care/disease control and general flock health, cooking, and marketing. More details and flyer coming soon!

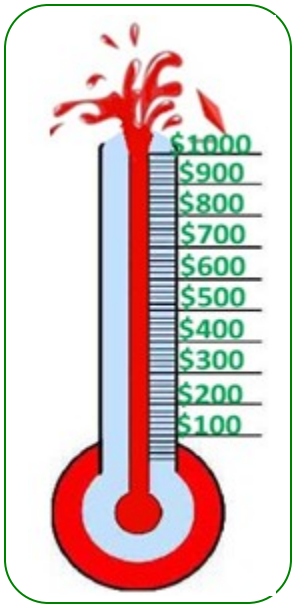
What is the Henhouse Coaching Network? The mission of Henhouse Coaching Network is to establish local grassroots movements of networks that are committed to developing, producing, and maintaining authentic, historic, standard bred poultry as described by the American Poultry Association (APA) Standard of Perfection. Birds will be produced for breeding, and growing to provide meat & eggs for the dining tables of American families. Our goal is to establish local coalitions that work together for the cause of sustainable poultry farming. Please direct questions to Jim Adkins at jim@centerforpoultry.com or 209-890-5326 or Pam Watson at pwatson@wsu.edu or 360-740-1220.

4-H Policy Changes

There have been changes to the State 4-H Policies. You can find a revised version of Publication #EM0758E "*Washington State 4-H Youth Development Program Policy"* at: http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/em0758e/em0758e.pdf

4-H Leaders,

Please log-in and get your hours up to date for last year. You can go back up to one year and enter hours. Here is the link: http://county.wsu.edu/chelan-douglas/youth/youth/leaderinfo/Pages/default.aspx. It is toward the bottom of the page. Please keep these hours coming in regularly (monthly is best for most people). These hours provide a monetary value to the 4-H program. With the loss of the King County Extension program, it is important for all of us to do our part to help keep 4-H alive. Let's all help make Chelan/Douglas County 4-H great!



Great Job!

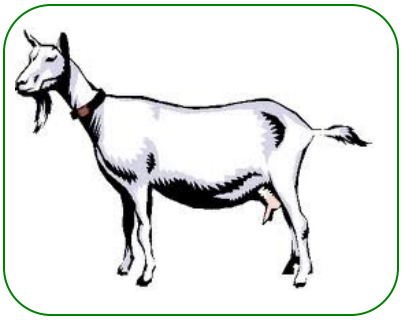
The final tally for the Clayton Kimsey Fundraiser was $3700.13!!! Thank you to all the people and clubs who helped out our local 4-H'er. Special thanks to Lynda Mikelson who carried all that money to the bank nearly every day!

Columbia River 4-H Goat Show

An educational goat show where the handlers can interact with the judge and improve showing skills. Open to 4-H and FFA goat handlers only. Ribbons will be awarded in all Classes. 4-H/FFA animal judging class will be at the conclusion of the show.

Saturday, May 26, at NCW Fairgrounds. 9:00 a.m. check in. No entry fees, $10 stall cleaning deposit that will be refunded if stall is left clean. Bring your rakes and wheelbarrows as well as your sack lunch!

You may pre-register with the 4-H Office, 667-6540 or gormley@wsu.edu



WA State 4-H Teen Conference Update

Teen Conference's 'Revolution of Responsibility' is just around the corner, June 24-26th.

Handbook, speakers, and information are up on the website with more added weekly.

Please note the following dates:

- Early registration opens **May 18th** ($165)
- Regular registration starts **June 1st** ($175)
- Registration closes **June 15th**
- Cancelation refund (-$50) if by **June 15th**
- Conference: **June 24-26th**

Go to http://4h.wsu.edu/conferences/teenconf/index.htm

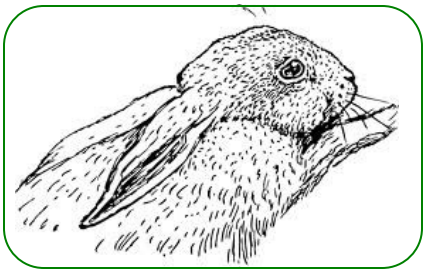
For a flyer to use for promotional purposes or if you need more TC tags, contact Jan Klein, jlklein@wsu.edu.

4-H Rabbit Extravaganza

Clark County's Country Critters 4-H Club welcomes all to their 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza on **May 12, 2012** at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Ridgefield WA. The judge for this show will be Vern Palmblad. Events include Conformation, Fitting & Showing, Dress Up Contest, Breed ID, Drawings and Silent Auction.

Lunch will be a potluck - so bring a dish to share.

Pre-registration must be postmarked by May 2, 2012. Event check-in begins at 8 a.m. on May 12th. See the Flyer and Registration for more information.



Sygenta Sugarbeet Scholarship

Sygenta is again offering their Sugarbeet Scholarship. This year they will award four $1500 scholarships to students planning to attend college this fall that intend to major in an agriculture-related field.

Applications are due **June 15th**. The scholarship is based on a 700-word essay. Go to www.SyngentaSugarbeetScholarship.com for complete details.

Chelan & Douglas Counties 4-H

WSU Chelan County Extension
400 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Phone 509-667-6540
FAX 509-667-6561
mmmorrison@wus.edu
faini@wsu.edu
gormley@wsu.edu

To Make The Best, Better

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
CHELAN/DOUGLAS COUNTY EXTENSION

Don't forget to check the web page for forms, information and dates:

www.ncw.wsu.edu/4h

Calendar

May

2-Teen Leadership Club
5-State Horse Bowl Contest
5-Oregon Poultry Swap
7-Chelan County Leaders' Council Meeting 7pm
8-Douglas County Leaders' Council Meeting 5:30pm
12-Rabbit Extravaganza
12-Superintendent Training 5pm Chelan County Fairgrounds
19-Bi-County Horse Show
19-Teen Conference Registration
26-Columbia River Goat Show, NCW Fairgrounds

June

2-Chelan County Fair Weigh-In, Chelan County Fairgrounds
9-Bi-County Horse Show
9-Chelan County Weigh-in, Chelan Rodeo Grounds
15-17-Wilderness First Aid Training
24-26 Teen Conference, Pullman,

July

8-Bi-County Horse Show
9-Chelan County Leaders' Council Potluck Meeting 6pm

4-H Tidbits….

- Super Saturday was a big hit, 50+ people showed up on a beautiful day and learned some great new skills!
- Michelle has freezing and canning guides for those interested!
- All 4-H Leaders, General, Project, Activity and Resource, are invited and encouraged to attend the Leaders Council Mtgs.
- Any adult helping out with the 4-H members, must first have the proper screening (by turning in the enrollment paperwork).
- Great Garden projects with 4-Hers http://sift.ncat.org/

Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin; physical, mental or sensory disability; marital status, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.