



4-H Clover Connection

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4-H program helps prepare youth for scientific future

America's largest youth development organization is doing its part to help meet the challenge of providing science-based educational opportunities for youth across the country.

According to a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences, there is a growing need for an ambitious national program to address the need for increased math and science education at all levels, said Jeff Sallee, Oklahoma 4-H science and technology state specialist.

"The 4-H Youth Development Program is directly connected to the research and resources at the 106 land-grant universities and colleges of the Cooperative Extension System, including Oklahoma State University," Sallee said. "This connection puts the Oklahoma 4-H program in a great position to help strengthen science and technology knowledge amongst our young people."

For nearly a century, club members in the state have engaged in the building blocks of economic success, including focusing on agricultural science, electricity, mechanics, entrepreneurship and natural sciences.

Over the last several years, Oklahoma 4-H'ers have seen their science and technology opportunities increase within the youth development program. Club members today are seeing opportunities in subjects such as rocketry, robotics, bio-fuels, renewable energy and computer science.

Sallee said the 4-H science, engineering and technology programs reach more than 5 million youth per year around the country and provides hands-on learning experiences to encourage young minds and help develop proficient leaders in science.

"These experiences are supported by more than half million dedicated adult volunteers across the country that are placing 4-H youth on a path toward successful careers," he said.

The 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology Program must be part of the long-term solution for improving science literacy and aptitude among

America's youth.

The National 4-H Council is addressing this challenge by preparing 1 million new young people to excel in science, engineering and technology by 2013. The Council's initiative is "One Million New Scientists. One Million New Ideas.™"

4-H can focus a variety of resources and expertise to strengthen young people's discovery and exploration of science.

To help bring attention to science, "National Youth Science Day" will take place Oct. 8 during National 4-H Week. 4-H will be encouraging all 6 million youth, plus parents, teachers and students nationwide to participate in this event. More information will be available at a later date.

News reports have indicated that the United States is falling dangerously behind other nations in developing its future workforce of scientists, engineers and technology experts.

America is facing a future of very much-needed intense global competition with a growing shortage of scientists.

"The Oklahoma 4-H program is the perfect place to learn more about science, engineering and technology, and our resources continue to grow as more and more club members become interested," Sallee said. "In Oklahoma, our scientific projects have been steadily increasing over the past several years. We believe in fostering passion in science today in an effort to shape education and career decisions tomorrow and to keep our youth competitive with others around the world."

Summer is Ending

Summer is coming to a quick end and the fair will be happening next week! We hope that you have lots of exhibits ready to display at our county fair. Be sure and check out the schedule and place your entries. Exhibits that place 1st in the 4-H Division are eligible for the State Fair. These exhibits remain at the Extension Office, or you choose to take them home, they must be returned to the Extension Office by Monday, Sept. 8th, 10:00 a.m. Food items that need to be replaced will need to arrive at Alvin's home by 8 p.m. on Sept. 9th. We need time to label and pack these articles for the State Fair. Ask either Alvin or Joy, if you need further assistance.

Back to School Picnic & Meeting

Our annual County-Wide Back to School Picnic and Meeting will be held **Sunday, August 31st Roman Nose State Park.** 4-H members may swim during the afternoon (courtesy of our leaders). Parents and siblings are also welcome to swim (at their own expense). Our meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a picnic. (In the event of rain, the picnic will be held at the fairgrounds beginning at 6 p.m.). The 4-H Leaders/Boosters will furnish the hotdogs, buns, chips and drinks. Each family is requested to bring dips, salads, desserts, and veggies to complete the picnic.

Plans are for the leaders to meet and set the calendar for the upcoming 4-H year. Our teen members (over 13 years of age) will also meet, elect officers and plan for the 2008-09 program year.

Applying for District Representative or District Office

If interested in filing for State Representative or District Officer, applications are due September 1st for Representative and October 1st for District Officer. Guidelines and applications can be found at 4-H State Website

<http://oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/leadership/file.htm>.

4-H Enrollment & Meeting Information

Membership in 4-H is open to any youth ages 9-19 or has began 4th grade. 4-H enrollment is on-going, however, during August local clubs are asked to update enrollment and enroll new members. Check with your local 4-H club leaders to find out when your next 4-H meeting is and make sure your enrollment is current.

Being an active member of 4-H starts by attending your local 4-H club meetings. A 4-H meeting should be scheduled on a regular basis at a consistent time and place. It should be run by officers elected by the membership with supervision and instruction from positive and caring adults. A good meeting will have three parts: business, education and recreation. 4-H members should have fun and have opportunity for recognition and peer support. A well-organized meeting encourages members to participate. Plan in advance, start and end on time, stay on task, use parliamentary procedure and be informative.

New 4-H Year Begins

The year is off and running and so is 4-H. By the time you read this newsletter, you may have already attended your first 4-H meeting of the year. If you've just joined 4-H, welcome to the Blaine County 4-H program! If you are continuing as a 4-H member, it's great to have you remain with us. If you have not enrolled in 4-H for this coming year, please fill out a new enrollment form. Enrollment forms may be picked up at the OSU Extension Office (located in the basement of the courthouse) or from your local leaders located in each community.

Northwest District Leadership Conference

The Northwest District Leadership Conference will be held on October 15 – 17, 2008 in Enid. Registration and RAM Forms are due by September 23rd in the Extension Office. Cost for youth delegates is \$95. This includes 2 nights lodging, conference cost, dinner and lunch on Thursday and Friday mornings. Delegates should be 13 years old by January 1, 2009 or completed the 7th Grade by Spring 2009. The conference will begin with registration on Wednesday, October 15th from 5-7 p.m. The opening session will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

4-H Day at an OSU Cowboy Football Game – September 27, 2008

The ticket is \$35 and that includes a ticket to the OSU vs. Troy football game as well as a pre-game gathering for youth, alumni, and families on the lawn north of the State 4-H Office. Game



T-Shirts are an additional \$11 for youth sizes and \$13 for adult sizes. You must pay and order tickets no later than **September 1, 2008.**

Details:

- Kick-off is set for 6 p.m., but it can change
- All tickets must be picked up at the State 4-H office (corner of Monroe & Hall of Fame) between 2:30-4 p.m.

State Fairs

**Oklahoma State Fair
September 11 – 21, 2008**

**Tulsa State Fair
September 25 – October 5, 2008**

Interactive Displays at Oklahoma State Fair

If you and a small group are interested in doing an interactive display at the State Fair of Oklahoma, there are opportunities for you. Groups are invited to set up and do a working display on the weekends of the State Fair in Oklahoma City. Forms are available at the State 4-H Web-Site or in the Extension Office. You will receive free tickets to the fair, as well as good parking. The deadline to be considered is September 1st.



Volunteers for Kids Crafts

If you would like to volunteer at the Oklahoma State Fair, the Theater and City Arts Center is coordinating a kid's craft area on the

weekends. You must be 12 years old and able to work a 2- to 3-hour time slot. Forms are available at the State 4-H Website

(<http://oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/events>)

or from the Blaine County Extension Office. Slots are available on a first-come, first-scheduled basis. Call right away, if you are interested!

Oklahoma 4-H Preparing an Oklahoma 4-H History Book

Oklahoma 4-H is preparing to celebrate 100 years and publish stories from the first 100 years in the Oklahoma 4-H Centennial History book. Sources for stories are needed. If you would like to nominate someone to be interviewed and used as a source for a story, please contact Jessica Stewart at the State 4-H Office at 405-744-7960.

Septemberfest

Oklahoma 4-H will once again participate in Septemberfest at the Governor's Mansion on September 6th. 4-H'ers are asked to provide games and activities to teach youth and potential 4-H'ers what 4-H is all about. This year's theme is the Oklahoma 4-H Centennial. Activities should have a Centennial theme. Registration is available online or at the Extension Office. Deadline is August 17th.

Fair Catalogues

Fair catalogues are available in locations around your community or can be picked up at the Extension Office located in the basement of the courthouse. Be sure and check out the special categories available!

This newsletter is one way of communicating educational info to the citizens of Blaine County in the area of 4-H & Youth Development. For free subscriptions, contact the Extension Office at 580-623-5195. The info given is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is implied. This information was produced at a cost of 1 cent per page for a total of \$14.40.

Editors,

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Watonga Cheese Festival Food Contest

The Cheese Festival will be held this year on October 10 & 11, 2008. The Junior Food Contest will be held and conducted at City Hall, Watonga on Friday, October 10th. Entry forms can be obtained at the Extension Office or on our web-site at <http://oces.okstate.edu/blaine>. Click on Family & Consumer Sciences and then on '2008 Watonga Cheese Food Contest File'.

Classes that can be entered: Cheese Main Dish, Vegetables, Breads, Desserts, Cheese Snack, and Salads & Salad Dressings.

Junior entries can be submitted on Friday, October 10th, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Judging begins at 10:00 a.m.

Blaine County Hall of Fame Portraits

For many years our 4-H Hall of Fame Portraits have been displayed at Cornerstone Bank. We sincerely appreciate the donation of location for these many years. Remodeling is complete at the Blaine County Courthouse and for better public viewing, our current portraits are now displayed on the first floor of the Courthouse. Be sure and stop by during your next visit to the Courthouse.



Calendar of Events

- 8/21-23 - Blaine County Fair, Fairgrounds
- 8/31 - Back to School Picnic & Meeting
- 9/5 - Geary Tri-County Fair
- 9/6 - Septemberfest, Governor's Mansion
- 9/11-21 - Oklahoma State Fair, OKC
- 9/25-10/5 - Tulsa State Fair
- 9/27 - 4-H Day at OSU Cowboy Football Game - Stillwater
- 10/10-11 - Watonga Cheese Festival
- 10/15-17 - N.W. District Leadership Conf, Enid

Come Join Us At the Fair !
August 21-23, 2008

