

Alberta

4-H

MAGAZINE

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VOLUME FIVE • ISSUE THREE
WINTER 2009

Congratulations UFA on 100 years!

page 27

The Making of Cleaver

page 39



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Submission Guidelines

Your stories are important to us, and we want to see them published in the next issue of the *Alberta 4-H Magazine*.

Here are a few tips to ensure that this happens:

1. Articles should be about 200-250 words;
2. Some examples for possible article topics might be: a fun and interesting event that you and your club took part in; an exchange that you went on; a fundraiser that your club was a part of; a lesson you have learned from your 4-H experience; an innovative project or activity that you and your club took part in.
3. Articles should NOT contain long lists of results;
4. Photos are a huge complement to any article – please send HI-RES pictures, as attachments via email or as hard copies through the mail. Please do not embed the photo(s) into the email itself;
5. If you do send a photo, please be sure to name ALL of the people who are in the photo, and include where the photo was taken. For example: *Jill and John at Edmonton's annual Folk Festival.*

If you are unsure about any of the above tips, please do not hesitate to contact us: magazine@4h.ab.ca.

NOTE: We attempt to make every effort to accommodate each article that is received; however, articles may need to be shortened, and sometimes withheld from publication, due to spatial restraints.

Alberta 4-H Magazine

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Submit your article and photos (preferably in electronic form) to magazine@4h.ab.ca, or by mail to:

4-H Branch

Room 200, 7000 – 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6

**Please label photos with name, 4-H club, article, and return address.*

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on the cover

2009 marks 100 years of innovation, progress and success for UFA Co-operative Limited. For almost 100 years, UFA has been providing these same values and attributes to its relationship with Alberta 4-H. As a means of acknowledging this support, Alberta 4-H has dedicated this issue's cover to UFA Co-operative Limited.

VISION: 4-H in Alberta is the organization of choice to develop marketable skills and outstanding community leaders.

MISSION: To develop youth as self-reliant, contributing individuals with marketable skills to succeed in today's society.

Editorial



My office has recently been renovated, and so in place of what was previously an upholstered half wall, I now have a window. A beaming, gloriously bright, moment-by-moment-photograph-of-the-world, window. Needless to say, this particular pane of glass elates me.

However, my window also serves as a moment-by-moment capture of the transition from summer to fall to now, winter, which granted, has been more depressing than elating, but it has also proven to affirm what I previously only held as a suspicion: time is flying by.

The evaporation of time is hardly new to those who are part of the 4-H Family; rather, it is the speed at which you all live your lives: full tilt. This has never been made more clear to me than this year, when I was receiving articles for this winter issue of the magazine, and realizing that at best, at deadline time, most clubs would have been reorganized for three weeks. And yet, I was flooded with submissions – hats off to members and leaders, your vigour for jumping in with both feet never ceases to amaze me.

Also amazing is the success being realized through school-based 4-H clubs. Ardmere School's success story has encouraged two other schools in the province to go ahead with their own clubs, which is not only fantastic, but is hopefully also indicative of a growing trend towards school based clubs becoming a larger part of the 4-H fabric. Check out Carolyn Massels' account (p 42) on how the Westglen Wranglers, Didsbury's newly implemented school-based 4-H club, is doing in their first semester.

Be sure to take heed of all of the "FYI" articles that pepper this issue – there is a lot of interesting information out there to be had, from information on a UK Exchange program (p 33) to tips on how to do research for public speaking (p 43).

And, just as an FYI for anyone who is wanting to make sure that Cleaver the Beaver is present at their upcoming winter hoo-hah, you will be thrilled to know that the end of summer 2009, 4-H added a third Cleaver to its current mascot roster. It is our hope that now, with an extra Cleaver in the rotation, your promotional needs will be better met. For more information, take a look at Cleaver's "coming of age" story on page 39.

In closing, I would just like to put the plug in for the April issue of the magazine, where National 4-H Month will be featured, the inaugural "4-H Family Day" at Northlands' FarmFair will be covered, and 4-H's brand new interactive communications' resource will be profiled. Ah yes my friends, the 4-H world is a busy one.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season,

Jess Hainstock

4-H SPECIALIST – RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Contact Us

4-H has a number of resource people to answer your questions and provide you with assistance. Below is a contact list for the Alberta 4-H Branch and 4-H Foundation of Alberta.

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Provincial News & Events



4-H Ambassador Myranda Stewart, diligently working at the 2009 Provincial Beef Heifer Show.

Ambassador Summary

BY STEPHANIE PARKER

4-H AMBASSADOR, SOUTH

This summer and fall the Ambassadors have been keeping themselves busy! A couple places you may have seen their abundant energy and diligent work were at Provincial Horse Classic and the Provincial Beef Heifer Show.

Ambassadors Kennan Hedley and Myranda Stewart were at the 2009 Horse Classic, held at Olds College. Helping out at sessions behind the scenes, judging marketing posters and handling animals for judging, the Ambassadors were as busy as Janet Kerr could keep them!

Ambassadors Jennifer Alexandre, Kari Bergerud, Jared Hunter and Myranda Stewart were present at the Provincial Beef Heifer Show, held at the Olds Ag Society's Cow Palace. Running errands, tallying results, and morning coffee runs for Rob Smith were only some of the tasks that Ambassadors successfully completed. During the Fun Night (planned by the Ambassadors), members attending the program found themselves digging through beet pulp for gummy worms, chasing each other with water guns, and having some good old fashioned fun with the Ambassadors.

The Ambassadors stay especially busy in the summer, but we try to stay just as involved in the winter, too. Our biggest, grandest event that is held every winter is Senior Members'



Rosie Templeton, 4-H Ambassador, gets ready to take no prisoners in the water fight.

Conference (SMC). Currently the Ambassadors have been working together to come up with ideas for sessions and activities so that this SMC is the best one yet. For anyone interested in attending this fabulous event, make sure you send in your application immediately because this program fills up FAST! *At the time of publication, SMC is officially full for 2010.*

I also just want to remind you that if you ever need help with an event in your club, district or region, make sure you contact your Ambassadors – we are always willing to help! 🍀



In case anyone needed a visual of the aftermath of gummy worm bobbing in beet pulp, feast your eyes on this.



A section created for all of us whose desktops, fridge doors, computer screens and day timers are hidden under a mountain of paper scraps, napkin shreds, Sticky Notes with and gum wrappers (no? just me?) that more or less act as an informal calendar of events.

In the FYI section, you will find reminders, deadlines and leads on cool initiatives and projects, which will hopefully help you to stay informed, as well as allow you to reclaim your kitchen table as an eating space rather than a bulletin board.

CAPL Raffle Benefits Alberta 4-H

BY PAULINE COPITHORNE
CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR

A highlight of the continued partnership between The Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen (CAPL) and Alberta 4-H is that of CAPL's Stampede raffle, which benefits the Alberta 4-H Legacy Fund.

CAPL purchases the reserve champion animal from the Calgary Stampede Steer Classic, which is then donated to Alberta 4-H. A side of beef, among other prizes, is available to be won through two raffle contests, with all proceeds directly benefitting Alberta 4-H. This year CAPL sold tickets for the raffle at their booth in the agriculture barns throughout the ten days of the Calgary Stampede, raising \$10,000 for the Alberta 4-H Legacy Fund. The booth was operated by both CAPL and 4-H volunteers, and was a great way for CAPL and Alberta 4-H to engage people in learning about the purposes and benefits of each organization.



(left to right) Denise Grieve, Pauline Copithorne, Robyn Van den Bon, Bruce Banks (CEO of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta), Ken Gummo (President of The Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen), Terry Cutting, Robin Thorsen, Suzanne Stahl.

Alberta 4-H would like to say thank you to CAPL for their generosity and continued support of 4-H. A very special thanks goes to CAPL members Terry Cutting and Robyn Van den Bon of McNally Land for their hard work and dedication to this initiative. 🍀

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Funding from the Community Spirit Program will go towards enhancing 4-H members and leaders' 4-H experience.

4-H Foundation Receives Community Spirit Donation

BY JOAN STONE

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR, 4-H FOUNDATION OF ALBERTA

In the spring of 2009, the Honourable Lindsay Blakett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, officially launched the Community Spirit Program. The goal of the program is to increase Albertan's charitable giving to help support Alberta's non-profit and charitable organizations. It is a donor-driven program, where Albertans decide where they place their charitable support on an annual basis.

The grant program provided funding to eligible non-profit organizations, providing direct services to Albertans for the betterment of their communities. Grants were calculated by dividing the program's available funds by the amount of eligible cash donations from individuals that have been received by those eligible applicants.

In April, the 4-H Foundation of Alberta received great news! A news conference held April 15 was attended by Bruce Banks, CEO of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta, and Brianne Bergerud, former 4-H member and 4-H Ambassador. Bruce and Brianne were presented with a cheque in the amount of \$25,000.00, the maximum grant available per year. Grant proceeds can be used to support Alberta 4-H's general operations, programs and/or capital projects.

Of the monies received from the Community Spirit Program, 82.5% will become part of the Scholarship Fund, increasing the total available to be awarded to future applicants. 17.5% of the grant received, deposited to the Alberta 4-H Legacy Fund, will be used to increase funding to the 4-H regions, districts and clubs, allowing these entities to continue providing programs, workshops and clinics for the further development of members and volunteer leaders throughout the province of Alberta. This proportionate distribution matches the eligible percentage of charitable donations received by the Foundation.

The 4-H Foundation of Alberta would like to thank all Albertans who continue to make 4-H the charitable organization of their choice. 🌱



Navigate the 4-H Website with Cleaver

CONTEST DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2010

Now that there are three Cleavers on the loose, Cleaver has resolved to be more active than ever before (amazing, right?). As always, Cleaver will be making appearances at fun days, Awards Nights, Achievement Days, and really, any other event you invite him to, BUT, he is also going to be making his way through the 4-H website over the next few months.

For the next 6 months Cleaver will be surfing around on www.4h.ab.ca and we want you to find him! Between the 5th and 15th of every month (beginning on January 15 and ending on June 15) he will make an appearance on a particular web page. To find Cleaver and complete the entry for that month you will be asked a question and the answer is located on the page where Cleaver is located. He might be on the main page or perhaps a Regional page or maybe he has gone to read a press release or two. It's anyone's guess! To get the question on where Cleaver is located for the month, go to the 4-H Calendar and check out the entry "Navigate the 4-H Website with Cleaver" for that month.

All you have to do is make sure that you visit the 4-H website between the 5th and 15th of every month (and any other time that you just want to see what's new with 4-H), fill out the application (found on page 8) and state the answer to the question posed each month. Only one submission is allowed per navigator. The entries with the most correct answers will be entered into a draw. The diligent navigator whose name is drawn will be rewarded with a Future Shop \$100 gift certificate.

Please mail the application (postmarked by July 15, 2010) to:

4-H Branch – 4-H Magazine Contest
 RM 200 7000 113 ST
 EDMONTON AB T6H 5T6
 Fax: 780-422-7755

Navigate the 4-H Website with Cleaver Application

Only one submission per person will be eligible to win. Please mail this application (postmarked by July 15, 2010) to the:

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7000 113 ST NW RM 200
EDMONTON AB T6H 5T6
Fax: 780.422.7755

January 5 – 15	

February 5 – 15	

March 5 – 15	

April 5 – 15	

May 5 – 15	

June 5 - 15	

Name:	Age:
Mailing Address:	

Club Name:	
Phone:	
E-Mail:	
Signature of parent or guardian (or 4-H member if aged 18 and older)	

Personal information on this form will be used for publicity and administration of the 4-H program. It is collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Information provided is protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



4-H Key Leaders Gain Insights

BY JOCELYN MCKINNON

COORDINATOR OF ALBERTA 4-H KEY LEADER PROGRAM



A record number of new 4-H Key Leaders attended the annual Key Leader Weekend, October 23 to 25. The program was geared to orientate Key Leaders and to equip them with knowledge and resources to effectively carry out their responsibilities.

4-H District Councils throughout Alberta annually select valued 4-H leaders to be the 4-H Key Leader for their district. As a key communication link for the district, these experienced 4-H volunteers coach new clubs and leaders, assist district committees, and offer training workshops in their district. Currently 63 4-H Key Leaders prepare to work with their councils and 4-H leaders.

Friday evening, 4-H Specialists with the 4-H and Agriculture Education Branch welcomed the new Key Leaders to the group with presentations of vests, brief bags and pins. Later, in regional meetings, they discussed local 4-H issues and programs. Saturday morning Janet Kerr, Regional Specialist for East and West Central, introduced more *Year of the 4-H Club* workshops and a *4-H Family Orientation Guide*. Northeast Specialist Leila Hickman presented new ways of looking at 4-H clubs and 4-H projects, and highlighted 4-H school clubs. Mark Shand completed the morning's program with a discussion on provincial 4-H program opportunities while Marguerite Stark closed the evening with a question and answer session on happenings in Alberta 4-H.

Representatives from various 4-H bodies – Alberta 4-H Council, 4-H Key Members, 4-H Foundation of Alberta, 4-H ARD staff, and the Marketing Advisory Committee (MAC) – joined 4-H Key Leaders Saturday afternoon for a session on Branding Alberta 4-H. Jimm Holland, with UFA Co-operative Limited, and Rosemarie Enslin, 4-H Foundation Director, led the group as they explored the world of branding.

On Sunday, Leila Hickman led the group through “Great Jobs, Great Meetings”, providing ideas for working with 4-H club executives. Rob Smith discussed Succession Planning for Key Leaders and 4-H leaders with clubs. From the 4-H Foundation, Bruce Banks and Henry Wiegman presented information on the generosity of 4-H sponsors, and fund-raising opportunities. Thank you to UFA Co-operative Limited for the sponsorship of the Alberta 4-H Key Leader program.

Thank- you also to all of the 4-H staff who contributed to the success of the training program through sharing their knowledge, skills and time. 🍀



Judging competitors.



Stacy Murray, Regional Specialist and coordinator of the Provincial Judging Competition congratulates Luke Wrubleski on his being named 2009 Top Overall Judge.



Competitors meticulously inspect the livestock at Provincial Judging.

Judging at a Provincial Level

BY LINDSEY MEREDITH

SUMMER COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING ASSISTANT

Thirty-nine competitive senior members gathered at Vermilion's Lakeland College on August 15 to vie for a chance to win one of 17 award trip spots given out at the 23rd Annual Provincial Judging Competition.

Viewed as one of the more exhausting Alberta 4-H competitions, in less than twelve hours, these 39 members judged and gave reasons for ten classes consisting of market swine and gilts, market sheep and breeding ewes, breeding heifers and market bulls, Jersey and Holstein cows and draft and light horses.

"Provincial Judging was a great learning experience for me," commented competitor Sarah McCrae. "I found it to be a challenge because previously, I have not had to do reasons for every class that I judged, ... or judge so many species at one time for that matter!"

At the conclusion of the event, Luke Wrubleski of the Armena 4-H Beef club was named Top Overall Judge. Luke will attend the Denver National Western Stock Show in January of 2010 to represent Alberta 4-H.

"Winning Top Overall Judge is definitely the pinnacle of my 4-H career!" enthused Luke, a senior 4-H member and 4-H Ambassador. "This represents the culmination of three years of effort, and I am so proud to finally have achieved this goal at my last provincial 4-H event. I will proudly represent Alberta 4-H in Denver in 2010."

The other top judges were each offered an opportunity to attend one of three award trips to Denver, Billings and Regina. The recipients are:

Denver National 4-H Roundup (January 2010)

Jenalee Blackhurst, Kelsey Cartwright, Jolene Garber, Edith Wouters

NILE Judging Competition (October 2009)

Jennifer Alexandre, Kristina Huisman, Taylor Isley, Kristy Oatway, Nathan Sereda, Stephanie Rasmussen, Tyler Kueber

Canadian Western Agribition, International 4-H Judging Seminar (November 2009)

Lindsey Grover, Kasara Van Hecke, Stacy Witwicka, Jacob Onischuck

The Provincial Judging Competition is exclusively sponsored by ATB Financial, and was hosted by Lakeland College. 🍀

The Key to a Good Challenge

BY LEILA HICKMAN

COORDINATOR OF ALBERTA 4-H KEY MEMBER PROGRAM

Key Members are senior-aged 4-H members, who are named into this one-year term position by their District Council. In addition to submitting a resume and an application, Key Members are chosen based on their advanced leadership skills, their proficient communication and their desire to act as a liaison between fellow members, leaders, district councils and members of the community.

Following the program's inception in 2005, Key Members have engaged in an annual training weekend, which in 2009, was held at the Alberta 4-H Centre, August 21-23. At the training weekend, Leila Hickman, Key Member Program Coordinator, challenged Key Members with the following three tasks:

Key Member Challenges

1. The first **Key Member Challenge** was to design a magnet that could be distributed province wide, and would create awareness of National 4-H month (November) and 'Show Your Colours' day (November 4). Members at training were able to vote on their winning design.



The winning design, created by Alex Kathol of the Wheatland District

2. The next **Key Member Challenge** asked all Key Members to engage their local paper in one of three ways: publish a story on the Alberta 4-H organization, create a profile piece on them as a Key Member, or for the Key Member to write an article and submit it. Once the article appears in the

FUN FACT

The Hawaiian alphabet consists of only 12 letters.



Delegates in attendance at the 2009 Key Member Training weekend.

paper they are to clip it out and send it to the 4-H office in Vermilion to be entered in a draw for a prize and points toward the "Challenge" title. Articles were submitted until midnight on November 30, 2009.

3. For **Key Member Challenge #3** the members were given posters, postcards and a supply of 30 magnets to spread around and promote 4-H awareness month. Once the supplies have been distributed they are to send Leila a list of how the distribution took place. 🍀

All of the World's Skills

BY LINDSEY MEREDITH

WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION VOLUNTEER

Like many senior 4-H members, I attended a rural high school that heavily emphasized Career and Technology Studies, or CTS, courses. While I chose to spend my time toiling away at the less exciting options classes like Personal Finance, Sociology, and work experience, my classmates were spending the same time block welding, fixing engines and baking – and they were having WAY more fun! In addition to having more fun, who knew that a high school Options class could lead to a regional competition, which would lead to a national one, which could ultimately end a person up at an international one?!

I spent September 1-7, 2009, volunteering at Stampede Park in Calgary at the 40th Annual WorldSkills International Competition, an international student competition, which was being held in Canada for only the second time in the competition's history! I spent most of my days volunteering in the Media Centre, where foreign correspondents came to send out their stories, photos, and videos.

While the majority of my time was spent checking media accreditation, I was able to steal away time to go and take in the competition. Did you know that 51 countries sent a total of nearly 900 students to compete in 45 skill categories, which ranged from culinary art and carpentry to restaurant service, bricklaying and web design? The opportunity was incredibly

eye-opening, and if I had known that I could possibly have been one of the more than 50,000 students who were visiting the competition, maybe I wouldn't have gone into a science program! I had no idea there were so many skills taught in high school that lead to different careers. My two favourite skills to watch was the landscaping competition, where competitors built irrigation systems and decks in less than 8 hours, and the mobile robotics competitions, where the competitors built working robots that duelled!

I was also incredibly impressed with the competition's organizing committee's approach to environmental sustainability. This year, everything that could be recycled or reused was. Fashion technology made wedding dresses pink themed for breast cancer awareness and the dresses were auctioned off at the end of the event. The food from the culinary competition was donated to a homeless shelter, and the larger pieces constructed in the building and machinery skills were recycled into various building projects across the province. However, one of the greatest features of the competition had to be the new equipment needed for the competition (more than \$14 million worth!). At the conclusion of WorldSkills 2009, all of the equipment was donated to high schools and post secondary institutions across Alberta.

Overall, there were so many amazing components that contributed to the event's complete success. Calgary set the precedent very high for the next competition, which will be held in London in 2012. Albertans can be very proud of how our province and country was represented on the international stage! 🍀



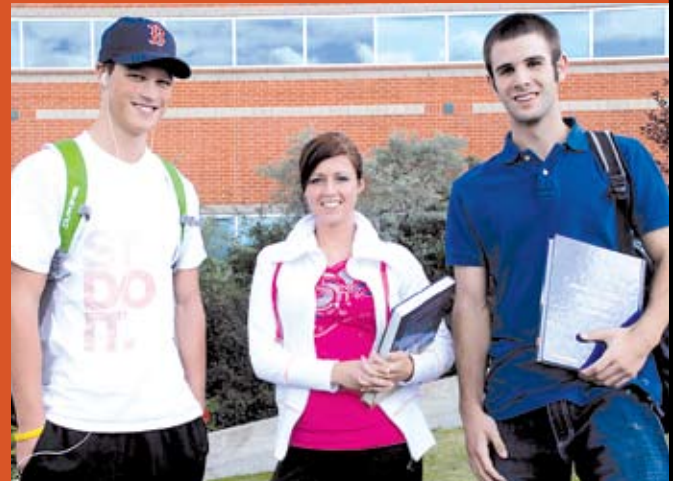
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Summer Staff Opportunities

During the summer of 2010, 4-H requires many summer staff to assist with a wide variety of programs and services. Employment period is from approximately May 1 to August 31, 2010 (may vary with position). This is a great way to get paid to do something you will love!

Log on to www.4h.ab.ca and click on "**Job Board**" to view all the mandatory qualifications and an in depth description of each position.

Deadline for applications is January 15, 2010.

Provincial 4-H Summer Program Project Coordinator in Airdrie - 1 to 2 positions

Lead summer staff team with program development, delivery and evaluation of various week-long provincial 4-H member programs. Requires individuals to work at various program sites throughout Alberta.

Provincial 4-H Summer Program Assistant in Airdrie - 4 to 6 positions

Assist summer staff team with program development, delivery and evaluation of various week-long provincial 4-H member programs. Requires individuals to work at various program sites throughout Alberta. Lifeguard positions are available.

Provincial 4-H Summer Program Media Release Coordinator in Edmonton - 1 position

Assist various Program Specialists and staff to publicize provincial 4-H summer programs.

Alberta 4-H Outdoor Adventure/4-H Summer Program Assistant/Lifeguard at Alberta 4-H Centre - 1 or 2 positions

Assist with the planning and coordination of Foundation programs and assist summer staff team with the delivery of various week-long provincial 4-H member programs. May require individuals to work at various program sites throughout Alberta.

Provincial 4-H Summer Travel Coordinator in Airdrie - 1 position

Assist with the planning and coordination of 4-H travel and exchange programs.

4-H Program Assistant in Barrhead/ Fairview and Airdrie/Stettler - 2 positions (one for each location)

Assist with regional summer programs and provincial livestock events. These positions will work closely with the 4-H Specialists responsible for these events to plan and implement a variety of activities.

Number of available positions subject to change; check the 4-H website for updates.

Four New Champion Level 4-H Supporters Link up with Alberta 4-H

BY HENRY WIEGMAN

DIRECTOR, FUND DEVELOPMENT, 4-H FOUNDATION OF ALBERTA

Alberta 4-H is grateful for the addition of four new Champion level sponsors in the last six months. Champion level supporters contribute between \$10,000 and \$40,000 per year to 4-H programming from the club to provincial level. For a complete listing of Alberta 4-H sponsors go to www.4h.ab.ca/partners/sponsors.

We welcome our newest additions to the champion level category: Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), Dow Chemical Canada ULC and MEGlobal and Kubota Canada.

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

The new partnership between Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) and Alberta 4-H will support youth and volunteer leaders. As a 4-H Champion, AFSC contributes:



- a \$1000 scholarship that will go to a 4-H member to assist him/her with post-secondary studies,
- support to each 4-H district to conduct district-wide workshops or events; and,
- support for 4-H volunteer leader training through the Small Animal Life Skills Technology and Trade Leader Update (SALTT), Beef Leader Up Date (BUD), Provincial 4-H Equine Leaders' Forum (PELF) and Regional Leader Learning Day Events.

AFSC is a provincial crown corporation with a private sector Board of Directors that provides farmers, agribusinesses and other small businesses loans, crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance.

AFSC has provided Alberta farmers with hail insurance for over 60 years, and has grown into a diverse Corporation with several core businesses: crop insurance, farm loans, commercial loans and farm income disaster assistance. For more information go to www.afsc.ca

Dow Chemical Canada ULC / MEGlobal Alberta 4-H Partnership

Dow & MEGlobal partner to become 4-H Champions

This fall, Dow Chemical Canada ULC and MEGlobal became partners in support of 4-H. While both have contributed individually to 4-H over the years, a partnership approach provided an opportunity for the companies to fund specific programs consistent with their philosophies on community sustainability. The funding will go toward leadership and skill development programming, which will directly benefit members and leaders at local and provin-



cial levels. With operations in both Fort Saskatchewan and Prentiss, Alberta, Dow and MEGlobal understand the role 4-H has in building strong rural communities and are proud to help the local organizations achieve their goals.

Dow Chemical Canada ULC, a subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company, employs approximately 1,000 people in Canada. Headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, Dow Canada and its affiliates have manufacturing locations in Toronto, Ontario; Fort Saskatchewan and Prentiss, Alberta; and Varennes, Quebec. For more information about Dow Canada, please visit our web site at www.dowcanada.com.

MEGlobal™ is a world leader in the manufacture and marketing of merchant monoethylene glycol and diethylene glycol (EG). Established in July 2004, the company is a joint venture between The Dow Chemical Company and Petrochemical Industries Company of Kuwait. Visit www.meglobal.biz for more information.

Kubota Canada

Kubota Canada joined 4-H's sponsorship portfolio this July through a national 4-H sponsorship initiative. Having been involved at the national level, support was offered by Kubota Canada Limited to sponsor a number of the qualifying 4-H junior dairy and junior beef heifer events across Canada during 2009. The new partnership between Kubota Canada and Alberta 4-H supports:



- the Annual Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show, where 150 members showcase their beef projects,
- the Annual Provincial 4-H Dairy Show, 4-H's longest running provincial 4-H livestock activity,
- support for our Alberta 4-H Magazine, which links up with our 4-H families three times yearly.

As a member of the worldwide Kubota family, Kubota Canada Ltd. has access to leading edge technology. Kubota Corporation is one of Japan's leading manufacturers of a comprehensive range of machinery and products including farm & industrial equipment, iron pipes, industrial castings and machinery, environmental-control facilities, residential building materials and prefabricated houses. For more information, go to www.kubota.ca. 🍀



Green + Green = Diploma Credits!

Did you know that by combining your passion for 4-H and the Green Certificate program, you can earn up to 16 high school diploma credits?



Here's how 4-H and Green Certificate can work together:

- This unit is designed for members at least 15 years of age at the beginning of the club year, who have completed their project studies outlined in Levels 1 to 3 of their project;
- Members must arrange with their club leadership, and have the approval and support of their club leadership, to take the Green Certificate Program as a 4-H project;
- Members who are taking the Green Certificate Program through school may also carry this as a 4-H project;
- 4-H leaders can act as a liaison to coordinate members' learning in Green Certificate; and to ensure project meetings relevant to the skills learnt;
- Senior members who enroll can utilize each other's farms for training;
- Parents can share the responsibility of training;
- Some farms may utilize different equipment; therefore, allowing trainees to gain experience with various types of machinery and equipment;
- On-farm testing can double as club demonstrations by senior member(s);

- Club presentations and workshops given by agricultural specialists (feed consultant, veterinarian, etc.), can focus their presentation outlines to address Green Certificate skill topics;
- Green Certificate testing occurs at Alberta's Agricultural colleges (Olds, Lethbridge, Vermilion, Fairview), giving the trainees opportunities to tour campus and find more information about post-secondary courses;
- By having both 4-H and Green Certificate experience members have more credentials when applying for agricultural scholarships.

Specializations and Learning Objectives:

- Cow-calf, Feedlot, Sheep, Swine and Dairy
- Field Crop, Irrigated Crops
- Beekeeping
- Equine

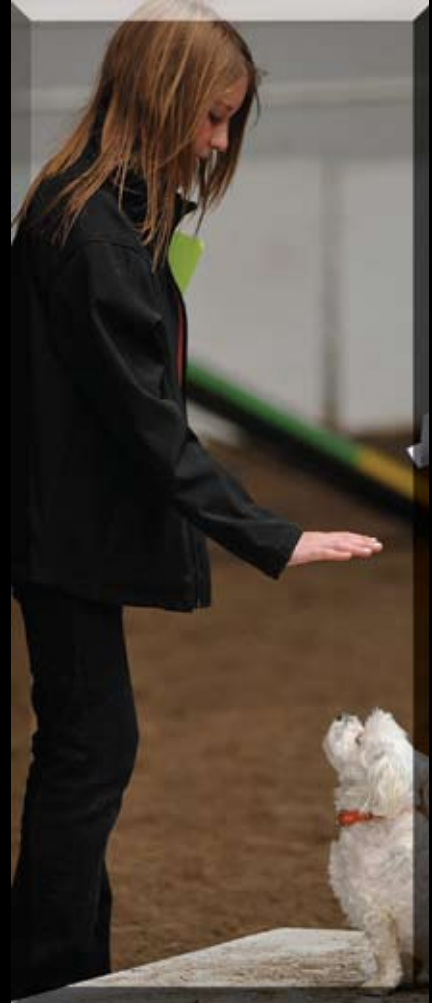
Remember these three points when considering your options:

- You must be at least 15 years of age
- Must be enrolled in grade 10, 11 or 12
- Access to training on a viable farming operation



For more information please contact Raelene Mercer, Green Certificate Coordinator at 780-968-3551 or raelene.mercer@gov.ab.ca OR www.agriculture.alberta.ca/greencertificate.

JOIN US FOR THE LARGEST 4-H EVENT IN CANADA



The Calgary Stampede is proud to partner with Alberta 4-H in building future leaders through agriculture education and youth programs.

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4-H
ON PARADE

May 28 - 30, 2010

Stampede Park, Calgary, AB

for more information visit
www.calgarystampede.com (follow the agriculture link)

Regional News & Events

South



Marie and Glenn Logan, who received their 35 and 30 year leader pins, respectively.



South Regional Specialist Rob Smith beams over his newly acquired 4-H license plate.



Platinum Award of Excellence recipients and sponsor representatives.

The South Region started off the 2009/2010 club year with our first Regional Council meeting, held on a Saturday in early October. This may not sound like “news”, but it is recognizable for the fact that absolutely every one of the southern 10 district councils were represented – a tough feat with everyone’s busy schedules! Great job! The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 5, and includes our ever-popular and humorous gift exchange.

Our annual Southern Regional Learning Day and Celebration took place on October 10 in Taber, saluting our 4-H leaders, members and friends, working together “Leading the Way, Everyday!” The afternoon learning sessions for leaders and members were well attended. Member sessions included a variety of games and “get-to-know-another-member” activities, a presentation on how to do presentations, and a mini-judging workshop. Excitement built as members earned 4-H money by demonstrating their 4-H knowledge, and subsequently spent it by purchasing a variety of items at a live auction, which ended the day. Just like at many farm auctions, there were some great deals to be had if you threw your hand in the air at the right moment! While members were busy, leaders had the opportunity to complete leader training, discuss diaries and interact about other diverse topics.

Supper attracted about 140 hungry attendees, who enjoyed Alberta beef and all of the trimmings. Premier’s Award Recipient and South Ambassador Rosie Templeton shared a few thoughts after dinner.

Award presentations included the introduction of several District Friends of 4-H. Unfortunately, the Southern Regional Council’s Friends of 4-H Brenda Engleson and Ann Geldreich were not in attendance, but the council extends congratulations and thanks to them both. Many leaders were recognized for their dedication to the 4-H program, including Glenn and Marie Logan, who received their 30 and 35 year leader pins respectively! Thank you to all leaders, for your years of commitment to our great program!

Several sponsor representatives were on hand as we recognized the achievements of our members, including the Platinum Award of Excellence recipients and 2009 Regional Communications and Judging winners. The evening provided an opportunity for them to speak with members, and hear first hand how much we continually appreciate their support.

It was evident that competition was tough in our only regional record book competition – the horse record book – as the top three placings were recognized from six different districts in the three categories of junior, intermediate and senior. Evening attendees took a moment to recognize sisters Katie and Jolene Garber, from Milk River 4-H Multi Club, who will both be representing Alberta in Denver during the 2010 National Western 4-H Roundup. Katie as part of the Horse Hippology team, Jolene on the Judging team. Finally, many graduate members were on hand to share more than \$30,000 in regional scholarships.

It was an evening of celebration and thanks as our members and leaders continue to lead the way into a bright 4-H future. 🍀

Calgary



Members of the Three Hills 4-H Wranglers Club: (left to right) Alyssa, Monique, Justine, Madison, Charlene, Nina, Ilona, Mackenzie, Stephanie and Rena.

Regional Horse Show

SUBMITTED BY THE THREE HILLS 4-H WRANGLERS CLUB

Calgary's 4-H Regional Horse Show was held in July, with 10 members of the Three Hills 4-H Wranglers Club being able to attend. We all had a wonderful time despite it being bitter sweet; our beloved leader, Mary Lou Tainsh had, previous to the regional show, announced that she was stepping down as general leader of the Three Hills 4-H Wranglers Club, though she has agreed to assist during the transition.

As a tribute to Mary Lou, she was presented the club's high-point banner.

Mentoring is Key

BY EDITH WOUTERS AND STEPHANIE RASMUSSEN

CALGARY KEY MEMBERS

Throughout last year Steph and I had organized many events for the different clubs in the Mountainview District. We were both really excited to be more involved in the 4-H program and help out and members or clubs that needed it. The more clubs we went to, the more involvement we received from the district.

When we attended the many clubs, we would run meetings, such as one for multi-judging. This meeting was more directed to the younger members who had not had a lot of experience with judging anything other than their own clubs animals. We went over how to judge horses, beef heifers and steers, and dairy. We've also ran meetings for public speaking and impromptus.

We helped with the district's multi-judging competition by running the registration table. In doing this, we made sure everyone had paid and that all of the clubs received their judging cards. The main event that we held for the entire district was our hockey game night. We took a large bus up to Calgary to watch a Hitman game. We had a great turn out, and we'll be running a similar night again this year.

Once our year of Key Member responsibilities was over, we both wanted to return again the following year. We felt that we now had a little preview of how we could help others in 4-H, but it wasn't enough. So we applied again. This was when Rob Smith, our Regional Specialist, suggested the idea of us being "Key Member Mentors". He felt that we had achieved and passed our Key Member responsibilities and he wanted us to influence others in other districts to do the same. We both jumped at the opportunity to make everyone's district as involved as ours had been. Now we are still both Key Members for the Mountainview District, but along with this we are both Key Member Mentors for the Calgary Region. This means that if any of the Key Members from other districts in our region need help organizing events or don't know where to start, we can help get the ideas flowing.

It stands to be an awesome year for learning and for fun; Steph and I are very much looking forward to our newly named "mentor" positions! ❄️



(left to right) Key Member Mentors Edith Wouters and Stephanie Rasmussen delivering homemade cookies to Calgary's Tom Baker Cancer Centre

Coming Soon to a Region Near You

BY ROB SMITH

CALGARY REGIONAL SPECIALIST

When I was a young 4-Her in the Calgary 4-H Region, there used to be a 'radical' winter camp for Junior and Intermediate 4-H members to 'rock out' for a weekend of fun and frolics in the snowy cold of the frigid winter months. It might have been cold, but the friendship and good times were all that we needed to keep us warm ...

Now maybe I'm sounding a bit like our grandparents' waxing rhapsodical about the 'good old days', but I do have great recollections of the District Winter Camp that Mountainview ran back in the early 1980's. The Calgary 4-H Region has long wanted a winter camp... needed a winter camp... and now its...

GOT A WINTER CAMP!!!

One for Juniors and one for Intermediates!!!

GET OUT!!! It's true!!!

They take place in February (Junior: February 12-14, 2010; Intermediate: February 19-21, 2010) at the Rivers Edge camp near Cremona. Registration information is available from your club leader, on the Alberta 4-H website, or by contacting Rob Smith, your friendly, neighborhood 4-H Specialist.

Don't miss out! Winter Bonanza is the place to be in Februareeee!!!

East Central

Fun Day

Watch the website and check with your club leader for the details of 4-H Fun Day. Fun Day will be Saturday, January 2, 2010, in Stettler.

Rebels Night

Saturday, February 13, 2010, is 4-H Night at the Red Deer Rebels. Plan to join other 4-H members, leaders, parents and families at this event. Tickets are \$11 per person. Please purchase your tickets as a club. Your club contact has the order form.

Winter Camp

Winter Camp will be held at Circle Square Ranch Camp near Halkirk from February 19–21, 2010. The camp is open to 4-H members age 9–12. Registration forms are on the 4-H website (www.4h.ab.ca), from your club leader or the 4-H Office in Stettler.

East Central Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010

Regional Public Speaking

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010

Regional Presentations

Senior Member Ski Trip

The Senior Member Ski trip will be from March 5–7, 2010 in Fernie, BC. Applications will be available on the website (www.4h.ab.ca) and through your club contacts by December 1. 🍀

West Central

Fun Day

The Rocky District is hosting Fun Day for the West Central region on January 16, 2010. Further information will be sent out in e-mail blasts, posted on the 4-H website and sent to club contacts.

Rebels Night

Saturday, February 13, 2010, is 4-H Night at the Red Deer Rebels. Plan to join other 4-H members, leaders, parents and families at this event. Tickets are \$11 per person. Please purchase your tickets as a club. Your club contact has the order form.

Winter Camp

Winter Camp will be held at the Alberta 4-H Centre near Battle Lake from February 26–28, 2010. The camp is open to 4-H members age 9–12. Registration forms are on the 4-H website (www.4h.ab.ca), from your club leader or the 4-H office in Stettler.

Do what you love.

Love what you do!



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- Nov 27, 2009: Horticulture, Land, Business & Fashion
- Jan 15, 2010: Animals & Agriculture
- Feb 12, 2010: Horticulture & Land
- Mar 19, 2010: Trades, Business & Fashion
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*Applications are accepted beginning November 1
On-line applications are available on our web site*

Senior Member Ski Trip

The Senior Member Ski trip will be from March 5-7, 2010 in Fernie, BC. Applications will be available on the website (www.4h.ab.ca) and through your club contacts by December 1. 🍀

Northeast Region

It has been an exciting fall with a few new clubs joining this year and there is a lot of optimism out around the region.

Once again our Regional summer camps were filled to capacity and rave reviews came back from the participants. Thank you to the summer staff team from Airdrie for their excellent programming, and to our guest from the Parkland Conservation Farm for the involvement in making the camp not only fun, but educational as well.

Project Book Competition

Thanks to the Beaver District for judging this competition. The Northeast region hosts a regional project book competition each year that recognizes those individuals who wish to go beyond the normal standard for record keeping. Books are scored at the club and district level and only the books that reach a certain standard are accepted into the regional competition. It is a true compliment just to make it to this competition, but for those who were successful, a cash award was presented at the Northeast Forum at Irma School, hosted by the Wainwright District.

Key Member and Key Leader Training

Reminder to all Northeast clubs: we have very skilled Key Members and Key Leaders spread throughout the region who are trained and ready to help your club. Please consider using them as a valuable resource in your club and district programming. Thank you to all the Northeast participants that attended the respective training programs at Battle Lake.

Northeast Forum

This annual event is the highlight of the year in the Northeast. On this day, a couple of very important goals are accomplished. The day begins with the project book award recipients being recognized for their efforts, which leads into a series of sessions to teach and educate participants in a wide variety of subjects. This is all followed by a fabulous meal and an award ceremony that recognizes the contribution of leaders and members to our 4-H program. The day is complemented by the opportunity to network and mingle with other people from across the region who share support for the 4-H program and its many benefits. Special congratulations to this year's Award of Distinction winner Loretta Bergo; we are extremely proud of the tireless hours that Loretta has put into the 4-H program and I am certain the students from the pilot project at Ardmore School will be eternally grateful to her.

Northeast Fall Fling

Hosted by the Vermilion River district, the theme of the 2009 Fall Fling was "Warm and Tropical". Junior members from all across the region were exposed to a wide variety of creative sessions, large group games, socializing and personal develop-



A group of senior members from the Northeast region gather together for a district-wide Awareness Day, held in Wainwright.

ment at Lakeland College from November 27 – 28. This twenty-four hour program allows junior members the opportunity to experience the overnight camp environment in a short stay that is very affordable and encouraging for all members.

Reminder: Parade Float and Promotion Photo Contest

Just a reminder to clubs: if you have been out promoting your club and 4-H, you need to snap a picture and send it in for a chance to win. The draw will be made at the Annual Regional Council meeting in St. Paul on February 7, 2010, so there is still a lot of time to get those photos in. If your club has participated in a parade during the summer and also at Christmas, as well as community event promotions, please send in a photo for each time and increase your chances of winning a great prize for your club.

NE Club Contest!

Remember from the *4-H Magazine's* Fall 2009 "Northeast" article that it was announced that we are having a club contest where we will highlight a different club each issue? You will get a bit of history, some facts and the club will answer FOUR questions. In the next September issue of the *4-H Magazine*, there will be a trivia contest relating to the information that was given on the Northeast clubs throughout the year.

Our second club featured is...Vermilion 4-H Sheep Club

The Vermilion 4-H Sheep club was formed in 1975. The club has 10 members and 4 leaders and has been extremely active at the club, district, regional and provincial level. They have had both Sheep and Goat projects in this club.

What is the biggest challenge your club faces?

Membership at times, due to the nature of the project.

What is the most memorable thing your club has done?

Tire Recycling!

What regional and provincial events have members or leaders attended this past year?

Regional – Forum, Fall Fling, You Be the Judge, Western Canadian, Marketing Workshop, Moose Lake Junior

Provincial – Senior Members' Conference, Club Week, LTCS, PDP, Provincial Judging, Leaders' Conference

As a club, what are you most looking forward to?

Volleyball Tournament – look for more details coming on this soon! 🍀

Northwest Region



4-H Members at this year's annual Northwest Regional program, Focus on 4-H.

Northwest Learning Day

On October 17, 2009, the Eleanor Hall School welcomed 4-H leaders and members from all over the region to the Northwest's first regional day of learning. Participants had a choice of several workshops that addressed social issues, required training, communication and judging skill development, club effectiveness and program opportunities. 4-H Key Members, 4-H Key Leaders, 4-H volunteers and staff all came together to present sessions to enhance and educate members and leaders. The event was free for the participants thanks to the regional casino fund-raiser and Alberta Financial Services Corporation's event sponsorship.

Northwest 4-H Fair

The Northwest 4-H Fair offered a fantastic project based day for 4-H members wanting new ideas and hands-on activities. November 28, 2009 was no exception, with 16 member workshops offering choices in woodworking, floral arranging, tole painting, wood burning and sketching. Members also tested their skills in checking their small engine, making pillows, chocolates, two kinds of albums, wall hanging or clay figures, wreaths or cards. There were also two different food sessions.

Adults attending the Fair learned to tole paint, make a folded star creation or a live floral centerpiece. New for this year were "drop-in crafts", which are for members who finished their workshop early. A choice of a 4-H friendship bracelet, felt poinsettia napkin holder, metal can tea light, Christmas Victoria ball or friendship frame were sure to create a line-up!

The Bench Show at the 4-H Fair continues to attract more members every year. For the Bench Show, members get to display previously-made 4-H projects and get ideas for future projects. The fee of \$15 includes the costs for two sessions and lunch and snacks.

Frosty Fun Weekend

Looking for outdoor fun in the middle of winter? Check out Frosty Fun Weekend February 5 to 7, 2010. On Friday evening senior and intermediate 4-H members will arrive at Camp Nakamun for an evening of "Get Acquainted" and challenge activities. Most of Saturday is spent outside working, through a variety of group sports and education sessions. Sunday usually sees members outside, racing their challenge vehicles and enjoying the last of their group events. The event is staffed by 4-H alumni and senior members who have LTCS training. Look for the application form in early December.

Record Book Competitions

Each year the Northwest regional project committees recognize the record keeping accomplishments of 4-H members. Having excelled at club and district level, the books entered in these regional competitions are of high quality. Judges often comment that they are challenged to rank the record books due to the closeness of the scores. Numbers are increasing in the beef, horse and life skills and other animals' regional competitions, showing the interest of members to continually improve their record keeping skills. Thank you to the leaders who encourage their members to do their best and enter the competitions. The region recognizes first and second place books with rewards and all members receive certificates of participation. 🍀

FUN FACTS

A sneeze travels out of your nose at approximately 161 km/hour.

It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.



4-H members at the Peace region's 2009 edition of Frosty Fest - don't miss out on next year's!

Peace Region

Just think....Christmas is just around the corner and there's only a few months of winter left. Enjoy the season!

Clubs are registered and operations are well underway for the new 4-H year. Welcome to the new families and to those who are returning, glad to have you back! Try to get all that you can out of the 4-H program by taking part in club meetings and events and ensuring that you meet the basic member expectations. Take part in camps and workshops, remember to also take advantage of the many opportunities that exist beyond your club, and don't be afraid to voice your opinion at the district and regional council meetings. 'Learn to Do By Doing' happens at every level.

Changes in the Regional Staff

It's official! Stacy Murray, long time Regional 4-H Specialist, and Christine Lentz (check out page 22 for an introduction to Christine), are job sharing. Stacy has moved with her family to Barrhead, but will be continuing to support the region 40% of the time. This means that I (Stacy) will be in the office in Barrhead a couple of days a week (Monday and Thursday at the moment) and will be in and around the Peace a couple of days a month. Christine will continue to work out of the Fairview office and will be the primary contact for the region. I look forward to a little more time with my family as we adjust

Peace Upcoming Events and Deadlines

JAN 15

Selections deadline

JAN

Peace Country Beef Congress

FEB 5-7

Regional Winter Camp

MARCH (DATE TBA)

Agri-Classic

MARCH 15

Key Member Application Deadline

MARCH 20

Regional Communications

APRIL 10

Regional Meeting

MAY 5

Scholarship and Bursary Deadline (Provincial and Regional)

to a new community but also so happy to be maintaining ties with the Peace. Thanks to all of those who joined me for a visit before we moved. It was greatly appreciated. As well, I'd like to thank the region for the picture of the Peace. It's a great reminder of 'home' in our new place.

Key Members and Key Leaders

These important people have a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to share around their district and the region. It's important to remember that just like you, they are busy people and appreciate some notice if there is something that you may appreciate their help with. Be sure to invite them to your club and district activities. While they won't be able to attend everything, it's important that they understand what you are doing and that you know who they are. These people are your first point of contact for answers to questions, and having faces to go with the names and voices make communications much easier.

Thank you to all the Key Leaders and Key Members for volunteering their time to help us all out.

Fall 4-H Leaders' Forum

Thanks to all of those who took the time to attend the annual Fall Forum in September, especially those who interrupted harvest to do so! Receiving start-up packages, and having the opportunity to go through them allows everyone to get started right. Being able to talk with other leaders from around the region, ask questions of regional and provincial council members, meet the regional office staff, and share a meal are all highlights of the day each year. Several leaders also completed their Leader Level 1. Congratulations! It's always a great way to start the year. 🍀

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Rosie Templeton of Coaldale, Alberta, for placing third at the national Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture (CYSA) competition, which was held on Saturday, November 7, in Toronto, Ontario, in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.



By earning top honours in the public speaking component of Alberta 4-H's provincial communications' competition held last April, Rosie was awarded a trip to the CYSA competition as Alberta 4-H's representative.

Look for an article on Rosie's experience at the Fair and the competition in the next issue of the *4-H Magazine!*

Rosie Templeton, third place finisher at CYSA and member of the Readymade 4-H Beef and South Country Judging 4-H Clubs.

4-H's New Faces



SHARI SMITH

Manager, Resource Development & Delivery, 4-H and Ag Education Programs

When the opportunity to be a part of Alberta's 4-H team came up, I was thrilled. Growing up on a family farm east of Three Hills, being a part of 4-H was just a given. I will openly admit to complaining with the best of them about early morning highway clean-ups, and my sister and I fought like crazy with my older brother while we were supposed to be working on our steers. But it didn't take much time in the "real world" for me to realize that my years in 4-H had given me an immeasurable advantage. Board meetings, presentations, event organization, paperwork – all things I was old hat at by the time I was 18 – were things other kids my age were just being introduced to.

After a few years spent enjoying downtown Calgary's rat race, I went on to become a communications instructor with Olds College, again highlighting the value of my public speaking experience. My 4-H years continued to influence me as I earned a masters degree in Leadership and began a job with Agriculture and Rural Development, working in various capacities to deliver programs to Alberta producers.

Now I have started the next phase of my journey working with the 4-H and Agriculture Education Branch. 4-H, like rural Alberta, carries with it a unique culture. It is about giving more than we take and realizing the value that comes from the people we connect with and the life lessons we learn along the way. I am so glad to be reconnecting with the 4-H community and I hope some of my own learning will serve the Branch and the programs well.



CHRISTINE LENTZ

Peace Regional 4-H Specialist

Hi, Christine Lentz here. I am job sharing the Peace Region's 4-H Specialist job with Stacy Murray. Mine is most often the voice you will hear at the end of the phone when you call to the Fairview office. My husband and I relocated to the Peace country in 2003, where we have a commercial cow/calf operation.

My 4-H career started out many years ago as a member in the Springwell Beef Club (are any of you old enough to remember that? ... Hm. That dates me big time, doesn't it?). I spent seven years as a member of 4-H, with some of my most fond memories being going to Club Week and Selections, and then being awarded the Montana trip from the Selections program. Once my own children were old enough, I made sure that we found a 4-H club to join, and over the last 11 years, my three boys have been involved in various clubs and projects, including light horse, market steer, small engines, woodworking, small business, foods and now, Creative Options (videography). It is my belief that one of the greatest accomplishments of being a 4-H member is the ability to speak in front of a crowd, and so I find 4-H's public speaking and presentations programs invaluable.

I look forward to meeting 4-H members and leaders from across the province and especially the Peace. Though I have been involved with 4-H for years, the position of being the Regional Specialist will certainly be challenging (the learning curve is steep), but also rewarding. Besides which, what better way to learn, than by doing!

P.S. - If any of you can remember Springwell, let me know.



TONI HARLEY

Administrative Assistant

Having worked with the 4-H and Agriculture Education Branch for just a few months after my recent move from Brisbane, Australia, I am not only learning all about the Alberta 4-H organization, but am also gaining a wonderful insight into what I call the "real" Alberta – all of the regional communities across the province that previously, as a visitor to Canada, had been just a mark on a map.

My tertiary education is in science; however, my interests seem to have steered me towards employment in educational settings! Previously I have worked for two adult technical colleges, and also the State Museum of Queensland in Visitor Services and Education. A highlight of my role at the museum was delivering education programs to rural schools in far north Queensland, and from this I gained a strong appreciation for the value (and fun) of hands-on learning, or "learning by doing" as they call it here!

I look forward to all of the excitement of the upcoming club year, and am very pleased to be working with and supporting the dedicated people that make up the Alberta 4-H family.

Who's a better employee than you?

(If you answered "Nobody," let us know)



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Canada



Stampede's 4-H Rodeo Attracts Alberta Youth

CALGARY – Advice like this really helps Jeremy Boulding come out of the chute with confidence.

Boulding, 17, of Big Valley, Alta., won the senior cow riding class Sunday afternoon as the Calgary Stampede's 12th annual Invitational 4-H Rodeo, a two-day event presented by ECL Transportation and Lamble's Western Wear & Tack, wrapped up under the Big Top.

Boulding has won a few buckles in the category before – including his first Stampede title three years ago, as an intermediate-aged rider – but some morning advice from former Canadian rodeo star Dave Shields, during a 45-minute cow riding clinic for 4-H competitors, paid some immediate dividends.

"That definitely does make a difference," said Boulding, whose winning ride of 74 points aboard a grumpy steer beat out Calgary's Jordan Mitchell (70) for the red ribbon. "He's had a cow riding clinic every year I've been here, and I get something out of it every time . . . it's all about confidence, balance, focus, sticking with it.

"I feel like I've progressed a lot. Actually, I'd like to go to his place (Shields is an instructor and co-founder of Ridin' High Rodeo Schools) to get some more help. He definitely knows what he's talking about."

Shields, who qualified for 10 Canadian Finals Rodeos from 1979 to 1990, will receive the Canadian Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame's Legendary Achievement Award next month in Calgary. Shields says he's all too happy to present rough stock clinics at the Stampede's annual 4-H Rodeo for youth.



"I love the sport of rodeo, and if I can help the kids get a good start at it, that means something to me," said Shields. "The safety aspect is huge. If kids get a bad start at this, then they quit. But if they can be taught how to get on and off properly, and not get hurt, then they'll want to do it again."

Nearly 100 competitors from across Alberta, aged 9 through 20, congregated over the weekend under the Big Top for prizes and ribbons in barrels, pole bending, thread-the-needle, cow riding, breakaway roping and goat tying events. However, the educational component of the 4-H Rodeo is equally important, says Norma Ansloos, chair of the Stampede's 4-H committee.

"The clinics are always a big hit, because they allow the kids to do things that they don't necessarily get in their own 4-H clubs at home," said Ansloos. "We've got some excellent clinicians working with the kids that are all involved in semi-pro or professional rodeos, so they've got a lot of knowledge and experience to train these kids to become future competitors further on."

"We do follow provincial 4-H guidelines for an invitational rodeo," added Ansloos, "which is why the educational side of it is so important."

Rough stock events – cow riding, breakaway roping and goat tying – wrapped up the two-day event on Sunday afternoon, with Calgary's Katie Baker winning the senior breakaway roping event (for competitors aged 15 to 20) by snaring a calf in 7.1 seconds.

Baker is no newcomer to roping, but the same couldn't be said for Twist, her eight-year-old Palomino quarter-horse gelding.

"Actually, it was his first time roping, so it was pretty impressive," laughed Baker. "Kind of a fluke, I guess... the calf turned around, and I caught him on the way back."

Railey Tremblay, of Cayley, Alta., and Tiny, an 18-year-old quarter-horse gelding, won the senior goat tying event in a time of 11.8 seconds, more than two seconds ahead of the



nearest competitor, Calgary's Chad Cena, who stopped the clock in 14.2 seconds.

"You have to be quick with your hands," said Tremblay. "There's a lot of little shortcuts you can do... and it depends on the draw you get, too. Some just lie down, but some will fight."

Keenan Reinhardt of Calgary won the intermediate cow riding event (ages 12 to 14) with a score of 72, three points better than runner-up Bailey Hlus of Innisfree, Alta. Hlus did claim victory, though, in intermediate breakaway roping, snaring a calf in 6.9 seconds.

Kelsey Hallett of Big Valley, riding Missy, claimed the intermediate goat tying event in a time of 12.2 seconds, 0.6 seconds quicker than Anna Gunn of Calgary, riding Rosie.

In all, 30 4-H clubs from across Alberta were represented at the Stampede's 12th annual Invitational 4-H Rodeo.

We invite you to join us next year at the Calgary Stampede 4-H Rodeo in September, 2010.

For more information contact:

Sharon Yeast at 403-261-9316
or syeast@calgariystampede.com





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UFA – A Glimpse at the Past 100 Years

On January 14, 1909, the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) was formed at the Mechanics Hall (10169 103rd Street) in Edmonton, Alberta, with newly named president James Bower at the helm.

From its inception, UFA has been a forward-thinking organization, ingrained in the history of this province as a key player in several changes that Alberta has witnessed over the past century.

- In 1913, UFA amended its constitution to allow for member's wives and daughters to be admitted into the organization with the same privileges as the men.
- On April 19, 1916 the Equal Franchise Bill was introduced and passed in Alberta. All provincial, municipal and school elections would guarantee women *"absolute equality with, and have the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same penalties and discipline, as men."*
- In 1913, having realized the potential of a member-owned organization, UFA put pressure on the provincial government, who passed the *Alberta Co-operatives Association Act*. It was the first such legislation in Western Canada, ushering in the possibility for consumer co-operatives to incorporate.
- From 1921 to 1935, United Farmers of Alberta formed the Government of Alberta. The first UFA Premier was Hebert Greenfield. While many feats were accomplished during these years, a little known fact may be that **UFA acquired Alberta's mineral rights from the Federal government in 1929.**

Since its inception, UFA has been active in their support of 4-H, providing leaders with prizes for club's Achievement Days, offering members free project-based workshops on a

district and regional level and donating items for local fundraisers and auctions in their stores' respective communities. In 2004, seeing the need for and recognizing the opportunity in club-level direct support, UFA made a formal club-level commitment, making it one of the first corporate partners to provide funding through the 4-H Foundation for 4-H clubs. In the first year of funding, UFA allocated dollars to supporting club's marketable livestock Achievement Days. In 2005, UFA increased their funding to provide support to all Alberta 4-H club's Achievement Days.

In a continued show of their progressive business practices translating into UFA's role as a Legacy Builder sponsor with Alberta 4-H, November 1, 2007, marked the highlight of Alberta 4-H's partnership with UFA, with UFA committing to a \$1,000,000 investment, making UFA Alberta 4-H's largest corporate partner.

In addition to all of this, UFA's continued support of Alberta 4-H has also included: Judging Award (1989 – 1991); Regional Judging Workshop (1992 – 2008); Judging Material Development (1992 – 2008); Beef Heifer Show (1st corporate partner 1994 – 2007); Horse Classic (1st corporate partner 1995 – 2007); Key Leader Program (since 1995); District Beef Workshops (1998 – 2007); Project Leader Workshops (since 2001); Leaders' Conference (since 2003); Judging Award (2003 – 2008); Awards of Excellence (since 2005).

Congratulations to UFA on 100 years of excellence, with best wishes for another exceptional 100.

Our best,

The 4-H Family of Alberta



Travel & Exchange



(Left to right) NILE trip delegates Kelsey Cartwright, Tyler Kueber, Kristy Oatway, Nathan Sereda, Jordyn Prior, Jennifer Alexandre, Taylor Isley, Stephanie Rasmussen

Cameron, Are We There Yet?

BY STEPHANIE RASMUSSEN

NILE DELEGATE

On the afternoon of October 11, 2009, eight eager 4-H members and two chaperones, set out on our journey to the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) judging competition in Billings, Montana. Our chaperones were Cameron Horner, who at age 39 was on his first 4-H trip, and Cameron's dad Wayne. Before we left we were all told to ask Cameron, "how much longer until we get there?" although his reply was if we did, he would pull the van over to the side of the road and kick us out.

So finally we were off. Not long after crossing the border Jordyn decided to ask Cameron "how much longer?" Needless to say our big van was pulled to the shoulder as Jordyn frantically explained that she really was just wondering. When we arrived in Great Falls, the next task was to agree on somewhere to eat supper. After we had all agreed on a place we had to find the restaurant. This is where we discovered that apparently Cameron isn't great at navigation and Wayne sits in the passenger seat and tells him where to go just like any father riding shotgun would.

After a good night's rest we were off for another four-hour ride in the van. After hearing all of the stories of how funny we all look when we sleep in the van we finally arrived at our hotel in Billings. For lunch Cameron treated us to Thanksgiving treat – subs and wraps. Afterward we decided that we wanted to go to the N.I.L.E for a bit and then to the mall for some shopping. Then it was supper time, which, at this point, Nathan was

starving. While we were ordering our food Nathan decided that he was going to try the one-pound burger. As we later discovered, Nathan can eat food like no other - he had finished his one-pound burger in less than five minutes!

On Tuesday our time to shine finally arrived. After a long day of judging we discovered that we are all excellent swine and sheep judges but what happened to our beef judging? This was a very interesting experience but a wonderful opportunity for us all. We learned that some delegates judge differently than we do here in Alberta, in that we respect our judges while others ended up screaming at them. For the American competitors, this competition proves to be very intense because they are all working for scholarships, as such, no one talks from the time that they start judging to the time that they are finished. The South Alberta team (Kelsey Cartwright, Taylor Isley, Stephanie Rasmussen, Nathan Sereda,) placed 3rd in swine, 6th in sheep, 5th in Beef, and 6th overall while the North Alberta team (Jennifer Alexandre, Kristy Oatway, Jordyn Prior, Tyler Kueber) placed 2nd in Swine and 10th overall. When we went out for supper that night it was Wayne who decided to start a peanut fight in the middle of the restaurant. When Cameron went to grab a handful of peanuts to join in, Wayne looked at him, and in his best dad voice said "Cameron, don't you dare throw any peanuts." It was the joke of the trip.

After a whirlwind few days it was time to head for home.

Once across the border we were greeted by the lovely white fluffy stuff - snow. Thanks for all the wonderful memories group and for the Horners for being the best chaperones. When we arrived back to Airdrie, I think that Cameron had the best first 4-H trip of his life. So just for memory sake, one last time, "Cameron, are we there yet?" 🍀



(left to right): Jesse Wall and article writer, Reanne Anderson.

The Far North Offers an Awesome Time

BY REANNE ANDERSON

NWT AWARD TRIP DELEGATE

The 2009 Alberta/Northwest Territories Agricultural Development tour began in Edmonton at our send off brunch. When the 16 of us delegates found out at Selections that we had been chosen for the coveted “NWT Trip,” we were thrilled because of the trip’s reputation for being, well, epic. Everyone was anxious to hit the road. Fortunately, we managed to fit all of Brittny’s luggage onto the trailer.

For the first few days we camped throughout northern Alberta, stopping to see a bison farm, the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation, and the Battle River Pioneer Museum in Manning. Paintballing was a definite highlight during our free time. Evenings were spent relaxing around the fire, while the boys whittled objects out of wood.

When we crossed the 60th Parallel we were eager to see the “far north”. Once in Yellowknife we were excited to have reached our destination, but sad because that meant our journey was half over. In July in Yellowknife the sun never completely sets, but only a few had the endurance to stay up all night and try cliff jumping.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is very different than Alberta’s, and we quickly noticed the polar bear rug decorating the floor, just one of the many pieces of Native art enhancing the look of their Legislature.

On the trip home, several of us learned that if you spit while you are standing under the cliff behind a waterfall it will fly upward and not fall down ... thanks to Hal for demonstrating that. On the last day we took a tour of Historic Dunvegan, which is the site of one of Alberta’s earliest fur trade posts and missionary centres, as well as a tour of Fairview College. Our final night camping was memorable, but the ride back to Edmonton was a sombre one.

This trip was unforgettable, and a special thanks to Marvin Molzan and Joyce Winter, who looked after us for 10 days. Everyone should rank this trip high when they attend Selections, because it is one of the best experiences you could ever have. 🍀



(left to right) NWT trip delegates Colin Blanchette, Ian Brousseau, Kaylie Bruner, Ilona Bastiaansen, Alynn Hagstrom

Pincher Creek Heads East

BY DIANE BOWEN-OCZKOWSKI

LEADER WITH PINCHER CREEK CHINOOK 4-H MULTI CLUB

If you only remember one thing from this article, make sure that it's this: take the opportunity to be in a 4-H exchange!

What an AWESOME experience: 10 youth from Pincher Creek, Alberta, and their two chaperones spent this summer showing 10 other 4-H delegates from Springhill, Nova Scotia, along with their 3 chaperones, the sights around Pincher Creek and area in the first week of July.

It was a very exciting, yet nervous, time when we were waiting at the Calgary airport to meet our exchange delegates for the first time; however, the shyness dissolved pretty quickly as we spent our first day together at Calgary's Calaway Park. The Nova Scotia Delegates had only seen Spruce Meadows on TV, and so on our way back to Pincher Creek we made a stop there.

We had really great, no-wind days to show our Nova Scotia exchanges our community, and show them we did! We went to a Hutterite colony, a feed lot, strip mines, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Waterton Lakes and a rodeo. These were all things they hadn't seen, and we sure to have fun at the barn dance! Every night we got together at one of the delegate's family's homes to have a potluck supper, so that all families could participate in the exchange. We said good-bye to our East Coast friends, but we were happy knowing we would be seeing them in a couple of weeks.

Soon it was the end of July, and it was Pincher Creek's turn to go to Nova Scotia for a week.

Words can not describe what opportunities we all experienced while we were in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick. We visited the Blueberry capitol of Canada in Oxford, along with seeing the only place in the world that manufactures blueberry harvesters. Most of our prairie group got their first ex-

perience swimming in the ocean, avoiding jelly fish, digging for clams and eating lobster until we could eat no more!

We were able to go on board the tall ships (having one of them being in full mast was a first); also going across the Confederation Bridge to visit beautiful Prince Edward Island and touring the famous Anne of Green Gables Heritage Site were highlights. Another couple of "firsts" was getting to tour Citadel Hill in Halifax, going to the Bedford Institute of Oceanography where we all got to handle some undersea creatures, and visiting the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and seeing artifacts that were rescued from the Titanic. We had the pleasure of getting to taste fresh boiled sugar candies by a third-generation maple farmer, whose granddaughter was a delegate of the exchange.

There were so many things to do and see and all right here in our great Canada!

We couldn't have done this without the great support of the Canadian 4-H Council, who sponsored our flights, or the great support we had from so many clubs, councils, business, our friends, neighbours and families of Pincher Creek! Not only did our prairie kids get to experience a very different way of living when they stayed with their host families but, when the Nova Scotia delegates came, it also made our members very aware of the opportunities they have right in southern Alberta.

So many lasting friendships were made by many families as each province's families appreciated the care and opportunities that their children were able to experience. As hosts, it was amazing to set a "touring" day up and to get to all of these neat places in the west, and in the east, it was amazing how so many people bent over backwards for the delegates, in order to enhance their daily trips. Each delegate and the host could tell you some of their favourite things about their Alberta-Nova Scotia Exchange, but the growth for each one of us was to know that for years to come, this exchange will have us singing "Oh, Canada" with a little bit more meaning, because we do live in a great land!

All of the Nova Scotian and Albertan exchange delegates in front of the giant blueberry that marks the blueberry capitol of Canada, Oxford, Nova Scotia.



Part II - "West Virginia Meets Alberta" St. Paul District 4-H Exchange (2 year program)

BY SHELLEY TYMOFICHUK

LEADER WITH ELK POINT 4-H MULTI CLUB

Spring of 2008 was the start of something absolutely incredible: a 4-H exchange experience that will forever be held in the hearts of many. The new 4-H friendships that are developed are what an exchange is all about.

Remember back to last summer, when "Part I" of this exchanged happened? When our group of nine members and two chaperones met their group of eight West Virginian 4-Hers and two chaperones, and proceeded to get to experience their way of life, all through an awesome state camp? Many members from each group have stayed in contact with one another throughout the year thanks to Facebook, emails, texting, phone calls and letters.

Now, in July 2009, we had our chance to show some of our Albertan hospitality in "Part II". Both groups had a slight shift of members. West Virginia (WV) came with ten members and three chaperones, some of which were new faces. Our families happily opened their homes to accommodate the extra members, which ended up giving two younger siblings the opportunity to host someone too!

Our adventure began on a very rainy July 7, when our WV 4-Hers arrived through the gates at the Edmonton International Airport. We made our way around the city of Edmonton, then through Mundare to the see the famous Stawnychy's Sausage (WV was interested in seeing the different town's marks of fame) and then onto St. Paul. Our guests could not believe how flat and how straight the roads were. In West Virginia, the landscape very much resembles the west coast of BC, with a lot of steep hills, big trees and very curvy roads that are extremely narrow. As we arrived in St. Paul, after of course showing our guests our town's famous landmark, the UFO Landing Pad, we met with all of our 4-H host families for pizza and introductions.

Day 2 of the adventure began at Bert and Yvonne Poulin's family farm with a tour of the chickens, turkeys, pigs and the dairy barn, along with the baby calves and lambs. Then it was off toward Elk Point where we passed the buffalo farm, the elf farm and a cattle feedlot. Finally we ended at the Fort George/Buckingham House Interpretive Centre where there was a tour of the historic Trading Post. We ended the day with a BBQ supper at Stoney Lake. All afternoon we experienced the typical "if you don't like it, wait five minutes and it will change" kind of Alberta weather. It went from sunny to heavy downpour to flashflood and then back to sunny, all in less than twenty minutes.

On Day 3, some WV members were amazed by the size of the Vegreville Pysanka (Easter egg) as they passed through Vegreville on their way to the Ukrainian Cultural Village near Elk Island Park, where we toured the ways of life in our communities in the past. The group made their way to the West Edmonton Mall Waterpark for many laughs and wholesome exercise. The looks on some faces after going down the Sky Screamer or was pretty funny – but they did it over and over!

Days 4, 5 and 6 were spent with the host families. Some went to Colonial Days in Lloydminster, while others did some outdoorsy stuff like quadding/dirtbiking, go-carting, sea-dooing, swimming, canoeing, while still others attended a family wedding and graduation receptions. A potluck wiener roast was also had, where a 4-H-style Slip n' Slide, Bean Bag (WV calls it "Corn Hole") and Kubb games provided hours of fun.



Laura Plante, member of the St. Paul District, shows her West Virginian guests how the Slip n' Slide is done.

Days 7, 8 and 9 were where we exposed our guests to the great Canadian Rockies and all of its elements! We started out near Miette Hotsprings with an amazing hike up the mountain and experienced an incredibly icy downpour of rain on the way down. The hotsprings that followed were a blessing!

The next day we went up the Jasper Sky Tram, which overlooks the town of Jasper. Most of the 4-Hers hiked to the snow cap to toss a few snow balls. Later in the day we toured to the Columbia Icefields, travelling on the glacier in the snowcoach. That evening we camped at Mosquito Creek. Here, we enjoyed a delicious supper followed by members making numerous trips between the icy creek and the wood-fired sauna and ended the evening with guitar playing, dancing and card games. Our final day together began with a "squirrelly" breakfast experience in the kitchen and a stop at Banff. After some shopping and a tour of the Cave & Basin Hot Springs, we were homeward bound.

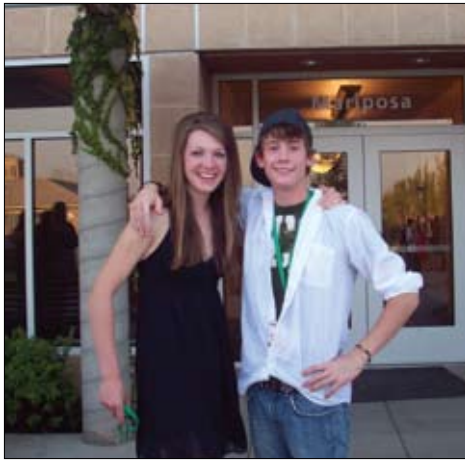


Members of the St. Paul District and West Virginia Exchange trip stand at the "Top of the World", the end destination point of the Jasper Sky Tram.

We said our good-byes in Leduc that night with many a tear being shed. It's amazing how close a group can get in just a few days. Facebook would have been extremely busy in the weeks to follow, swapping pictures and chatter. The experiences that we have shared together will never be forgotten. Our groups just meshed so naturally – it was like everyone had been friends all along.

From successful fundraising supporters (tire, oil filter & bottle recycling, sale of 4-H cookbooks, Safe Grad 2008, NEABBA), to our families and friends, our community and the encouragement from our 4-H district and region, there are many people to give thanks to for making this exchange possible. Special thanks to Gail Plante, my co-partner, for all of her expertise for organizing and surfing the web for info and for making wonderful scrapbook keepsakes for all of our members. I would also like to thank our wonderfully helpful, hardworking and energetic parents. Without you, it would have never been so perfectly complete. Thank you also to the West Virginian 4-H program for all that you have done to make this opportunity possible!

Friends Forever In 4-H. ♣



Jordyn Prior and Keanan Mahoney, California 4-H Exchange award trip delegates.



Jordyn and her host friend, Kylie.



The California State Capitol

California, Here We Come!

BY JORDYN PRIOR

AWARD TRIP DELEGATE

In recognition of our achievements at the Alberta 4-H “Selections” program, I, Jordyn Prior, and fellow 4-Her Keanan Mahoney embarked on the California 4-H Exchange to take part in the annual State Leadership Conference (SLC) at the University of California’s Merced location.

SLC began with a bang on Thursday afternoon and continued through until Sunday. Keanan and I met our host friends at the conference – I was staying with a girl named Kylie and Keanan with a girl named Austin. While attending this conference we had an amazing opportunity to meet new friends from all over California and learn about their country, culture, and the Californian version of 4-H. I have to admit, Keanan and I found it pretty hilarious how the Americans thought we had “accents” – we were asked some very strange questions and it was very common to have people casually exaggerate the word “eh?” in a conversation. Needless to say we had a lot of fun tricking them into thinking that we lived in igloos and that we rode polar bears and dog sleds to school.

Throughout the conference we participated in numerous activities such as an intense life-sized chess, Sumo wrestling, human bowling and a large slip ‘n’ slide, as well as many edu-

cational sessions. The conference focused on the theme “It’s a Big Deal” which showed us that our life *is* a big deal and being able to stand out and share your voice and opinion in the world is a big deal – being a leader is a BIG DEAL. We also got the opportunity to take part in the special “All-Star” activities (All-Star is a program comparable to Alberta 4-H’s Key Member program). The weekend was truly a blast and it ended with a masquerade dance on the Saturday night.

Following the conference, Keanan, Austin, Kylie and I took off and spent the next two days hanging out at Austin’s farm. We spent hours under the sprinkler in the sun, working on our California “burn” as we called it, and we pigged out in Austin’s orchard, finding the fresh fruit very addicting. We also decided to take a day trip out to the Boardwalk on the coast so that we could experience the rides and the California beaches.

On the last night I finally got to meet my host family, who turned out to be absolutely awesome! We spent the night tasting California clam chowder, shopping, viewing Paradise Canyon, star gazing, watching movies, touring Sacramento – we stayed up until 4 in the morning trying to jam as much as we could into one day. The week flew by so fast, but new friendships were made and unforgettable memories were created. The California 4-H Exchange was a truly amazing trip and I would recommend it to all 4-H members as their award trip pick at Selections. 🍀

4-Hers Bitten by the Travel Bug, Take Note!

2010 W. Garfield Weston Foundation 4-H United Kingdom Exchange

Program:

One Alberta delegate, along with two other Canadian delegates, will spend five weeks in the United Kingdom, each as the guest of several families. They will attend the Royal Show in Warwickshire and visit the Experimental Farms in Sittingbourne.

Each province that has sent a delegate to the U.K. in the current year, will host a delegate in October/November. The visiting U.K. delegates do not necessarily have to be billeted in the home of the "twin" delegate.

Delegates Info and Requirements:

- One delegate each, from Nova Scotia, Quebec and Alberta;
- Must be 18 years of age by January 1, 2010;
- Members are eligible whether or not they have previously participated as a delegate in a national 4-H program;
- Delegates should preferably be intent on a career in, or closely related to, agriculture, fisheries or forestry;
- Members must have been in the 4-H program for at least two years, and have been an active member within the last two years;
- Delegates must be prepared to be actively involved in the program;

Dates:

Canadian delegates to the United Kingdom: June 11 to July 17, 2010

U.K. delegates to Canada: October 2 to November 7, 2010

Fee:

Program fee is \$350.00 per delegate. This includes a \$332.00 registration and \$18.00 cancellation fee.

Deadlines:

Submission of application: February 1, 2010

Submission of host family names: July 15, 2010

If you are interested in applying for the United Kingdom exchange or hosting a United Kingdom delegate please contact:

Mark Shand, 4-H Specialist - Programs
Phone : (403) 948-8508 Fax : (403) 948-2069
e-mail : mark.shand@gov.ab.ca

Applicants will need to fill out the application form, which can be found in this issue's Program Booklet.



Club & District Articles



Getting ready for the action to start at the 4-H Invitational Rodeo.

To the Rodeo!

BY ROBIN KNOL

CLUB REPORTER

September, 26, 2009, was the 4-H Invitational Rodeo at the Calgary Stampede Park. 4-H members from clubs all over Alberta came together and joined in a fun filled day.

The invitational rodeo is a two day event. On Saturday, club members participate in gymkhana events: barrel racing, Thread the Needle (a pattern made up of five poles, four of the poles are set up in a rectangle, and the fifth pole standing alone), and pole bending (another pattern where you weave through poles). On Sunday, club members met up again for breakaway roping, goat tying, and cow riding.

On Saturday morning, members of the Millarville Saddle Sores joined other participants and headed off to various clinics: saddle fitting, pole bending, goat tying, and sports medicine. A huge "thank you" to the instructors for improving our knowledge, on and off a horse.

After the clinics, club members and their families sat together and had the most amazing lunch ever. We had a wide choice of delicious foods to choose from. Thank you to those in charge of catering the event.

After our wonderful meal, members warmed up their horses in preparation for the gymkhana events. First up was barrel racing, then Thread the Needle, and our last event of the day, pole bending. Our club did amazingly well!

Congratulations everyone on their runs and times!

FUN FACT

Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of a blue whale.



Millarville Saddle Sores member, Katie Clark, as she competes at the 4-H Invitational Rodeo, held at Stampede Park.

I'd like to give a special thanks to the sponsors: ECL, Lammies, and the Calgary Stampede for hosting an amazing weekend. Thank you Krista Caryle for instructing the sports medicine session, Becky Stone for instructing the pole bending clinic, Lindsay Miller for instructing the goat tying clinic, and Peggy Sue Moffat for instructing us on saddle fitting. Also, a special thanks to our announcer Tim Welter, our judges Peggy Sue Moffat, John Finn, our timers Sue Baker and Sarah Linde, as well as all of the volunteers, the Calgary Stampede staff, 4-H families and members. 🍀

Safeway and Johnsonville Sausage Benefit Barbeque

On Sept 12, 2009 the Lloydminster Safeway store, in conjunction with Johnsonville Sausage, held a barbeque benefiting the Donna Moore Trust Fund. Donna Moore tragically passed away at the Big Valley Jamboree this summer, leaving behind two sons.

Johnsonville Sausage contacted Safeway with the suggestion to hold the barbeque as both companies sponsor Big Valley Jamboree. The barbeque was hosted by the Lloydminster Safeway store, in Donna Moore's hometown.

Lloydminster Safeway Manager, Jason Johnston, worked with Johnsonville Sausage employees Don Fletcher and Colin Parker to implement the barbeque. Don Fletcher and Colin Parker have both enjoyed working with 4-H volunteers at Big Valley Jamboree. Carol Selte, Northeast Region President, and Charlene Carey, Vermilion River District President, volunteered to represent 4-H at the event.

The afternoon fundraiser contributed \$1500 to the Donna Moore Trust Fund. One of Donna's sons happened to stop by, thanking Safeway, Johnsonville Sausage, and the volunteers for their support in this difficult time. 🍀

Clever the Beaver Heads to Ardrossan!

BY FRANIE JOHNSON

MEMBER OF THE ARDROSSAN 4-H CREATIVE HANDS CLUB



Clever and the Ardrossan Creative Hands 4-H club.

This summer, on June 20, 2009, members of the Ardrossan 4-H Creative Hands Club participated in the Ardrossan Parade and Picnic. We had a great time, and one of our members even volunteered to dress as Clever the Beaver! What 4-H spirit!

Clever and our club walked in the parade, sporting 4-H tattoos and green and white umbrellas to block the scorching sun. The crowds immensely enjoyed the 4-H themed candies, as well as the 4-H pencils and balloons. The club also set up a display in the exhibition grounds showcasing all of the fun projects member had completed throughout the year. We also gave out popcorn and invited curious onlookers to join 4-H.

All in all, our club considers the parade a success and almost had too much fun to be imagined (if that's even possible?!). 🍀



Clever and some scorching hot parade goers enjoying the shade.

FUN FACT

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.



Members of the Horizon 4-H Multi Club at their "dino"mite "Snoring with the Dinosaurs" event.

A Prehistoric Slumber

BY JENNA LOGAN

MEMBER OF THE HORIZON 4-H MULTI CLUB

Our journey began on April 3, 2009, when all 18 members of the Horizon 4-H Multi Club decided to attend an event called "Snoring with the Dinosaurs" at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, AB. We assumed we were prepared for anything the camp had to throw at us; however, we were wrong. Everybody walked through the door carrying a mountain of stuff, and was led into the gallery where we would be sleeping. To our surprise, we got to lay down our sleeping bags underneath an Albertosaurus, a Triceratops, and a humongous tyrant, the Tyrannosaurus Rex! Looking up at these tremendous skeletons, I realized it would be a long night.

The coordinator got right to work, separating us into groups and explaining everything we would be doing that evening. My group each received a flashlight and followed our leader into a dark hole. The first thing we saw was a gigantic skull; however, when our eyes adjusted, we realized that this skull was miniscule compared to what was looking us in the face—a HUGE Tyrannosaurus Rex named Rexy. It reminded everyone of the scene where the dinosaur comes to life in the movie "Night at the Museum", and no one was eager to have this skeleton wake up! We then met Brittany the Boa Constrictor and everyone took a turn holding her. She was cold and slimy; we couldn't wait to move on. Our last activity was digging for fossils. We used tools to resurrect dinosaur bones from clay encasements. After these activities it was time to sleep. This however, was harder said than done.

Everybody climbed into sleeping bags and waited for the moment when the lights went off and they would be trapped in the dark with the dinosaurs. Eventually everyone fell into a deep sleep. After breakfast we explored the Museum's galleries. It was truly an educational, prehistoric adventure for all the participants. Many members had a new career choice in mind: to become a paleontologist. 🍀

Clever Made Me a Believer!

BY ALYSSA RENKE

IRVINE BEEF CLUB

Wow, what a summer!

I just returned from 4-H camp and wondered what could be more fun than that, but then I got to spend an afternoon with Clever the Beaver at the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede. Clever was so awesome!!

He looked really warm, thanks to the hot weather, but that did not stop him. He went outside and shook hands with all the kids and some adults too! Some people even had the NERVE to say, "Hey look at the silly GOPHER," but Clever would just turn around and shake his tail at them. Clever also pointed everyone towards the Country in the City exhibits so they could go see all the fun activities. Clever had fun at the activities too! He milked the cow, tried roping, looked at the exotic chickens and watched them shear a sheep. That, I must say, was a great day.

Thanks Clever for making me a believer that learning to do by doing is really fun. 🍄



Clever the Beaver lovin' life at the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede.

Bindloss 4-H Fundraiser Gives HALO Flight!

BY LOGAN GRUDECKI

CLUB REPORTER

Our Bindloss 4-H Multi-Club had big dreams of giving back to the community. Just recently we held a fundraiser for the Helicopter Air Lift Operation (HALO), which is an organization that helps transport victims who are heavily injured to hospitals, via a helicopter.

The HALO fundraiser held in Acadia Valley on October 2 was a flying success! It started with a roast beef/ham supper where over 160 people were fed. The supper expenses for the fundraiser were partly paid by a \$500 grant received by Kaitlyn Grudecki (she had received this grant at the provincial 2009 PDP Plus summer program by showing outstanding participation in a group project). We had a surprise appearance from Clever the Beaver, who is the provincial 4-H mascot. Clever was very entertaining and mingled with the crowd, meeting and greeting the people. Every so often Clever could be seen doing a little jig. It was nice to have Clever's support in our efforts.

Tricia Nardari of the HALO group spoke to the crowd about their organization, which was followed by a local citizen talking about their experience with HALO after her husband fell off of the top of a grain bin. As she so aptly put it, "you don't think it will ever happen to you, that you will be in need of their service. But in a brief moment everything can change." The citizen expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the people of HALO. Having it hit so close to home was definitely an eye-opener for many people.

After supper and some social time, 4-H proceeded with the silent and live auction. There was such a wide variety of items donated to be auctioned off – anything from livestock to household goods and toys to labour. The bidding was lively, pitting brother against sister, friends against friends and



Members of the Bindloss 4-H Multi Club at their HALO fundraiser.

neighbours against neighbours. This was all in good fun, and it definitely kept things interesting. As the evening progressed, more items were added to the auction block including the 4-H members being auctioned off as a single or in a group. These ambitious members brought in approximately \$2500. Our auctioneer, Jim Sinclair (who is also our beef club leader), kept things running smoothly over the course of the evening, and by the end of the event, the HALO group had taken in over \$30,000, with donations still trickling in after the event. This event surpassed the expectations of the HALO representatives and they went back to Medicine Hat very pleased (and very tired!).

As this fundraiser was the community service event for the Bindloss 4-H club, we felt we were doing our part for HALO. 🍄

FUN FACT

The average person falls asleep in 20 minutes.

Millarville Saddle Sores are Off to a Galloping Start

BY ROBIN KNOL

CLUB REPORTER

On October 3, which proved to be a biting cold Saturday morning, the Millarville Saddle Sores 4-H Club had their first "Meeting and Ride". Once the horses were unloaded and tied to the trailers, club members headed for the Millarville Hall. Inside, talking and laughter filled the air as we got to know one another a little more.

After Karlee, our president, called the meeting to order the club's new secretary, Madison, read the minutes from the "Kick Off Ride". We also talked about our club's committees, and what they would be this year; we decided on five:

1. Yearbook;
2. Lip sync, (where club members choose a song and make up a dance or set out of it.);
3. Stall decorating (where members choose a theme and decorate the stalls for 4-H on Parade, a 4-H District Horse Show, etc.);
4. Fundraising, and
5. Social committee (this committee plans events like the Christmas party).

Karlee then talked about the clinics that the Millarville Saddle Sores will set up, which may include cattle penning, barrel racing, polo cross, showing, etc. Members were brought up to speed when the club leaders spoke about what is happening in our club and throughout the District. The meeting finished with the club singing "Happy Birthday" to Paula, who is a new junior to the Millarville Saddle Sores, and everyone indulged in some fantastic birthday cake!

Next we were handed a schedule with juniors riding first and then intermediates finishing up their books. While some of the members are out riding, others worked on their dismounting skills and worked on their dairies. Since Mr. Williamson was away, Cassandra Bebee taught kids on their horses that morning and afternoon. Thank you Cassandra! It was a great day despite the weather and I can't wait to see everyone on the optional ride! 🍀



Tug-of-war was just one of the activities that the Millarville Saddle Sores had fun with at their kickoff meeting.



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4-H Coal Trail Riders Take a Walk on the Wild Side

BY SHAYLYN WEISENBURGER

MEMBER OF THE 4-H COAL TRAIL RIDERS

On June 13, 2009, some members of the 4-H Coal Trail Riders got the opportunity to go on a tour through the mountains near Sundre, AB, and learn about wild horses with Jack Nichol, a man who has had experience in the mountains and with wild horses. We left early morning to meet up with him, and we were in the mountains by 9 am. In total we saw six different herds, fairly spread out, and we also saw a lot of territory markings left by the stallions. The herds all reacted differently to our presence; we were able to get fairly close to some, while others ran away once we got out of the vehicle, not waiting to see if we were dangerous or not. Unlike our horses at home, these horses stood close together, did not wander off from the protection of the herd, and the stallion was always standing between us and his mares. We stopped for a picnic lunch by one of the many beautiful creeks and gorgeous mountains. It was an amazing experience. We saw and learned a lot on our tour.

I would like to thank Bob and Doreen Henderson of the Wild Horses of Alberta Society (WHOAS) for their hard work getting a tour set up so we could see the horses for ourselves. It was an amazing experience and for more information on Alberta's wild horses, you can go to the WHOAS website northernhorse.com/wildhorses/. 🍀



(left to right) Sheridan Lund, Cheyanne Schmultz, Shaylyn Weisenburger, Britney Street.

(left to right) Cheyenne Lund, Britney Street, Jack Nichol, Cheyanne Schmultz, Shaylyn Weisenburger, Sheridan Lund.



Features

The Making of Cleaver

TEXT BY JESS HAINSTOCK

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

PHOTOS BY CAMERON HORNER

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING SPECIALIST

CLEAVER SPECS BY SUSAN HUGENS

INTERNATIONAL MASCOT CORPORATION

1 First, Cleaver's necessary accessories had to be properly crafted...



2 And then of course these accessories had to be tried out to make sure that there was enough pomp and flare in them!



His form had to be made and tested to ensure that the fun to jovial ratio was correct...



4 And it appears as though it is...



While Cleaver's popularity has never been a secret, this past summer, he was out on the road A LOT. And it's not that Cleaver resented the time spent socialising, shaking hands, posing for photos, making friends, handing out stickers and tattoos, but it was more that he was frustrated about not being able to be in more than one¹ place at a time.

Poor Cleaver. So much enthusiasm, so little time.

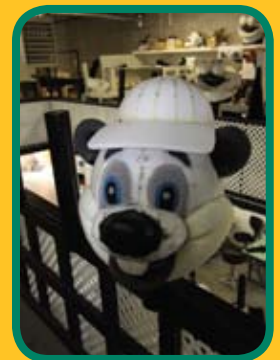
BUT, this just in ... (a drum roll is heard in the background)

We have another Cleaver in the house!

It's not just a "snap your fingers" sort of process though; Cleaver took 8 metres of fur, 2 sheets of foam for his body suit, ¼ spool of thread, 5 metres jersey material and approximately 80 hours of work time! 🍀

¹To be fair, there are actually TWO Cleaver mascots, and so he is technically able to be in two places at once.

5 Of course, Cleaver's trademark toothy grin had to be exactly right, as does his jaunty cap.



Check mark to both!

7 Cleaver is getting close to being ready ... he just needs his fur, otherwise events in the fall and winter will be out of the question...

Got it!



8 And voila! Cleaver is back in action, ready for any fair, parade, Achievement Day, awards night, forum, presentation, program you have for him to attend.



Call Toni at the 4-H Branch to book Cleaver for your next event – 780.422.4444



Left: Tim, circa 1991. Right: Melena, Paula and Tim, summer of 2009

Where Are They Now?

BY SUSANN STONE

MANAGER, MARKETING AND SPECIAL PROJECTS –
4-H FOUNDATION OF ALBERTA

Name: Tim Bowman

4-H Involvement:

Lakemere 4-H Beef and Multi Club, Muir Lake, Alberta
Years as a 4-H member; Years as a 4-H Volunteer

Beef Club member: 1986-1994

4-H Summer Program Staff: 1995- 1996

President of Alberta 4-H Alumni: 1996-2000

Member of 4-H Council: 1996-2000

Member of 4-H Foundation Board of Directors: 2001-2004

What was the highlight of your 4-H career?

I was very fortunate to participate in hundreds of 4-H activities, and I fondly recall my projects, judging competitions, camps, reunions, trips, Big Valley Jamboree, dressing up as Cleaver, fundraisers, and even Highway Clean-up. However, if I were to single out one thing, it would be Club Week, which I had the awesome opportunity of attending as a member, staff, and a volunteer.

What are you doing now?

I just started my 13th year of teaching music to middle school students in Red Deer. I married a beautiful Saskatchewan girl named Paula and we have an adorable little girl named Melena who will celebrate her first birthday soon. I also work with a community jazz band called Jazz Explosion, play soccer every week and will soon finish my M.Ed degree.

What skills do you use everyday that you gained through 4-H?

I am incredibly grateful for the skills I acquired in 4-H. How to run a meeting, how to make decisions, how to work with people, how to plan events, how to keep records, how to write a speech, and how to give back to the community are all skills I employ everyday. The most important skill I learned, however, was how to have good clean fun.

How would you describe the 4-H program to someone who is unaware of it?

I would introduce them to my 4-H friends. The strength of the program, in my mind, has always been great people willing to do extraordinary things. Now that I am several years removed from being a member, I am able to admire the success of my 4-H peers who have become dynamic members of their communities and walking billboards of the fabulous organization 4-H continues to be. 🍀



Charlene Stuart performing her freestyle at a trot at the Alberta Equestrian Vaulting Association Provincials in Olds, Alberta, October 17- 18, 2009.

4-H Member Vaults Her Way to the Top!



BY CHARLENE STUART

SILVER STIRRUPS 4-H CLUB

My name is Charlene Stuart and I am a member of the Silver Stirrups 4-H Club, Innisfail, as well as an active vaulter with the Meadow Creek Vaulting Club of Olds. Equestrian vaulting is a sport unlike any other. It is a mixture of dance and gymnastics on the back of a moving horse. I have been a member of the Meadow Creek Vaulting Club for two years and am also starting my second year of 4-H.



Charlene's coach, Jeanine van der Sluijs, dismounting at the end of her freestyle routine at a canter.

Equestrian vaulting was formed in the Roman era where soldiers performed some basic vaulting moves in full armour. These basic moves are now called “compulsories”. Then each vaulter, with the help of their coach, composes a freestyle in which the vaulter performs moves that are appropriate for their vaulting level and skill. In this sport you learn harmony with the horse as well as strength and flexibility. You start at walk (D, C, B levels) then move into trot (D, C, B) then canter (D, C, B, A, AA). At the highest level events, you can only compete in canter.

As a vaulter, there are several options for how I can compete. I can compete as an individual, as part of a double (2 vaulters) or as a team (6 vaulters). At lower level competitions there are also barrel classes offered. The barrel is used as a ‘stationary’ horse for practicing new moves and for perfecting my routine so that the horse does not get overused.

The horses used in the sport of vaulting range from large ponies to draft horses. Most commonly used in Europe are warm blood horses and this trend is becoming more popular in North America as well. The horses need to be large and strong for the team events, where up to three vaulters may be performing on the back of the horse at a walk, trot or canter, at the same time.

Vaulting began as an organized sport in the United States in 1966 so it is a relatively new sport in North America and especially Canada. It has recently begun to rapidly grow; in Alberta there are now five active vaulting clubs.

Living in an urban environment puts restraints on being an equine lover. By using my vaulting horse as my 4-H project, I am able to utilize the horsemanship experience that I gain through 4-H. I have benefited greatly from the vast experience that my fellow 4-H club members have generously provided. 🍀



Charlene at the AEVA Provincials in her freestyle routine at a trot.

Thank you for letting us host you for the day!

We really love what we do and we're happy to have had the opportunity to share the day with all of you!

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Chalk it Up: 4-H Welcomes Another School-based 4-H Club to the Mix

BY CAROLYN MASSEL

Westglen School is a dynamic middle school of almost 300 students located in Didsbury. This year, Westglen has followed in the footsteps of Ardmore and Tilley, and have brought 4-H into our school. In the school, there were already members in three beef clubs, three horse clubs, a dairy club and a dog club; however, 4-H was still largely limited to rural families with a long tradition of 4-H membership. As a school, we believe very strongly in giving our students opportunities to explore new ideas. The strength and variety of the 4-H program is a natural fit with our other complementary courses.

All of the students are in Grade 7, so we are an entire club of intermediate members. Students have class three times a week. During those times we work on public speaking activities, record keeping, and learning about our pets. Bringing our pets to school for visits has been a favourite part of 4-H for many of us! This is a semestered class, so only half of the club has class time this semester, and the other half will have class time starting in February.

Finding time to meet as a large group has been a challenge, but we try to meet to cover club business twice a month at noon hour. It is a lot of work to get a new club up and running in such a non-traditional setting but, thanks to the six executive members with 4-H backgrounds, it has been a lot of fun.

It is hard to ignore that the face of rural Alberta is changing. Even in schools in small towns, fewer and fewer of our students have an agricultural background and, if 4-H is going to continue to grow as an organization, we need to respond to this changing demographic. Anyone with questions regarding any of the above information can contact the club's leader, Carolyn Massel at cmassel@chinooksedge.ab.ca or at the school, 403.335.8700.

In an effort to highlight the learning curve, the benefits, the challenges and the rewards that come part and package with school-based 4-H clubs, the *4-H Magazine* will be featuring reports from the province's school-based clubs on an ongoing basis. 🌱



Didsbury School Club: Members of Westglen School's 4-H club show off their 4-H projects ... and by "projects", I mean "pets".

Earthbox Kids

BY BRENT ANDRESSEN

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION SPECIALIST



Andrew McCloskey talks to students about the growing process, starting with a seed.

Kids and summer and gardening. Three words that go so well together, especially when combined with teamwork, fun, excitement, and hands-on learning.

This past summer, a Growing Forward project called Earthbox Kids piloted the use of Earthboxes as a way to engage school communities in summer gardening. Students from three schools were involved in the pilot and grew a variety of crops from corn to cabbage. These young farmers harvested their produce in September and celebrated with Thanksgiving soup and salsa.

Earthbox Kids is a three year project funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Growing Forward program. It will assess the potential of school-based gardening to increase urban interest in agriculture and healthy, local food. Greenland Garden Centre in Sherwood Park and Fast Fence Edmonton were key partners in contributing to the success of this summer's projects. Other partners are Apple Schools, a project of the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta which promotes active living and healthy eating in schools, and Growing Connections, a grassroots Earthbox program in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

To learn more about the Earthbox Kids project, please call Brent Andressen at 780-427-4225. 🌱



Students doing an on-site examination of a corn field.

Research Might be Boring But it's Worth It – Here's Why



BY LYNDSEY THORLACIUS

COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR, ALTALINK

While there is the odd person who may claim that they love research, the reality that many of us face is that we just don't have time to do research. It seems like every project, every assignment, every 4-H speech requires a little bit of research but really, why waste time reading a bunch of articles or surfing content online when you can just get in there and get 'er done! But readers beware... while we can sometimes get away without doing our research (and I am sure that we all have) there are always consequences of not doing your research.



Author Lyndsay Thorlacius, shocked by her realization that research might not be a waste of time.

Take for example my first foray into Club Week and really, my first major involvement with Alberta 4-H as a corporate sponsor on behalf of AltaLink. Since I was born and raised in Calgary, was never really sure what a heifer was, had never been able to identify a swather and couldn't locate Oyen on a map, you could only imagine my anxiety before delving into a week-long adventure with more than 100 4-H delegates.

To ease this panic, I did my research - I spent a lot of time on the 4-H website learning about the organization, reading my Club Week facilitator information package and had discussions with past facilitators to learn about the week and everything that it would involve.

As a result of this research, I was not alarmed when I showed up at Olds College and was told that I would have to lie in the

dark on the gym floor and listen to Miley Cyrus' 'The Climb' twice a day for multiple days on end. Nor was I shocked when I realized just how much energy and enthusiasm 4-Hers have, despite it being eleven o'clock at night. And finally, I came prepared - I had all of the appropriate clothing for the Canada Celebration, Wild West BBQ and was able to whip out the ol' dancing boots for all of the two-steppin' that went down at the dances! Just think how sad it would have been if I hadn't done my research... I wouldn't have really understood what the 4-H organization was about or the life-changing impact that Club Week has on participants. And last but not least, I wouldn't have looked so cool with all of my activity-appropriate garb!

So despite the fact that research can be a bit tedious upfront, it's worth it in the long run because it provides you with all of that background information that gives so much more meaning to the work that you are doing. This meaning and knowledge has a direct effect on the quality of your work, decision or experience, which is really the key benefit of research.

Developing strong research skills and getting into the habit of doing research is important because it can be used in everything in life. From your 4-H presentations, homework, job interview preparation, deciding where to go for post-secondary education or what first car you want to buy, everything involves a strong research component.

So I take back the "research is boring" statement - it is actually one of the principles of success. I mean, you can still always get your projects done without it, but a little bit of extra time spent on research means more background information, more context, a deeper meaning and a higher chance of success. 🍀

FYI

Sticky notes

Check the 4-H website frequently for application forms for various regional winter camps, ski trips and fun days.

Remember that summer staff applications must be in by January 15, 2010.

Attention Senior Members! Selections' deadline is January 15, 2010 - so get your yearly diary forms and application in to your regional office as soon as possible!



Great Kids Award recipient Ted Andrews, pictured here with Premier Ed Stelmach and Youth Services Minister Janis Tarchuck.

Alberta's Great Kids

BY JESS HAINSTOCK

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

So what exactly does it take to be a great kid?

In Key Leader Juanita Wagstaff's opinion, it takes community spirit, strong leadership skills, a kind heart, well-developed communication skills and the willingness to help out wherever needed. "We should all role model our lives after this young man; he has the time, the interest, and the energy to spend on getting to know people of any age, from the young to seniors," Juanita commented.

Enter Stage Left: Ted Andrew.

After reading the nomination requirements for the Government of Alberta's *Great Kids Award*, Juanita immediately thought of Ted as an ideal candidate. Ted, who is a former Key Member, a second-place winner at Provincial Public Speaking, a Selections award trip recipient and a counsellor at PDP 1, seemed like a shoo-in for the prize.

And apparently, the *Great Kids*' selection committee thought so as well, and out of 110 applicants, they chose Ted to be one of 16 award recipients. Ted, who is a member of the Dryland 4-H Multi Club and has Juanita as his district's Key Leader, was "really, really surprised" on August 5, after being notified of his win.

"My mom and I had looked at the bios for previous winners, and had noticed that a lot of them had typically been from larger centres, and so I really wasn't holding my breath for a phone call. I just thought that there was no way that they'd select a crazy farm boy from Youngstown."

But select they did, and fast forward to October 3, 2009, when that crazy farm boy, his mom, dad, three brothers and grandparents made their way to Edmonton's Fantasyland Hotel, where the *Great Kids Award* ceremony was held.

"It was very much an honour to get to be among the other *Great Kids Award* recipients," Ted commented. "Many of them were actively involved with charities or humanitarian efforts, some had survived huge adversity, and yet they were all very fun, very down to earth. Truly, they were all just really great kids."

Premier Ed Stelmach and Youth Services Minister Janis Tarchuck were both on hand to congratulate the winners, and to present a pin and a trophy to each award recipient.

"My bio, which was read as I was walking onto the stage, referenced that I was a 4-H member, and so when it came time to shake Premier Stelmach's hand, he turned to me and asked, 'And so, what project are you in?' That was a pretty cool moment, to get to have dialogue with the Premier about 4-H."

Following the ceremony, there was a luncheon, where the media presence was, well, painful.

"There was a ton of media there, from CBC to CityTV to CTV to Global, and there were reporters there with *The Journal* and *The Sun* as well. Honestly, there were so many flashes from the cameras, that my eyes started to water, and my face hurt from smiling."

But was it all worth it?

"It was a really, really great experience," confirms Ted, who is a first-year Broadcasting Journalism student at Lethbridge College. "It was really flattering to even be nominated, and then to actually win one of the awards? What a huge honour."

In addition to being named one of Alberta's 16 "*Great Kids*", each winner received an IBM computer, a free night's stay at the Fantasyland Hotel, passes for the water park, a goodie bag with a t-shirt, hoodie, toque, coffee mug and snacks, and a voucher for breakfast the following day.

"There are many 4-H members that should be nominated for this award. I would highly recommend that more 4-H members are nominated for this because we are all amazingly great kids," concludes Ted. If you know a "Great Kid" between the ages of 5-18, go to www.child.alberta.ca/home/ for more information on how to nominate someone. 🍀



Eric Gustafsson



Cleaver the Beaver



Myranda Stewart



Greg Coleman

Ask an Expert

Have all your 4-H questions answered by these seasoned pros!

I know that the 4-H summer staff application deadline is coming up, but I'm still trying to decide whether or not to apply. How was your experience as summer program staff? Do you recommend it?

Eric Gustafsson, 2009 Summer Program Staff

That seems to be a dilemma more and more senior 4-H members are faced with. The question of whether to apply or not is ultimately your choice (I know, crazy right?). But as summer staff you need to feel comfortable with the responsibility for large groups as well as being a public and 4-H Representative and role model. The expression of "4-Hers are a different breed" is true. I strongly believe provincial programs contribute to the statement. My summer staff year was one of my favourite summers of all time. Do I recommend it? I sure do. If chosen then they see something in you that you may not see yet. It's a chance for you to grow as well.

Club start-up is such an exciting time in the 4-H world; what is it about club reorganization season that you look most forward to?

Cleaver the Beaver, Tireless 4-H Advocate

Hm. Well, I guess what I look forward to the most is the potential that each year holds to be even better than the one before it. New members are jazzed up and excited to select a new project, meet new friends and experience a new organization, while veteran members are anticipating getting to see their friends, re-engage with their project material and meet the club's newest additions. Leaders are bursting with new ideas for club meetings and projects, and are on the lookout possible activities, fundraisers and events to plan or take part in, and all of the 4-H Partners are excited to get back into the swing of things. Everyone's optimism is contagious!

Do Ambassadors get to take the school whole year off from 4-H? If not, how are they able to balance their school work and all of their 4-H-related commitments?

Myranda Stewart, Alberta 4-H Ambassador

Typically we do both school and 4-H. Since most Ambassadors are in school, specifically post secondary, school is definitely a priority. We go to the events that work in our schedule and 4-H understands if we are unable to attend an event. The great thing about being an Ambassador is that we are part of a team. If we can't make it one of our fellow ambassadors probably can make it. Balancing all of our commitments is usually pretty easy!

Do you have any suggestions for effective ways to get club members interacting with one another? We have quite a few new members in our club this year, and I want to make sure that they feel welcome.

Greg Coleman – Key Leader, Red Deer District

Most new members find the whole process of a 4-H club a bit intimidating and may be very shy or timid around older members. There are a number of different ways to encourage participation and develop confidence in these members. Depending on what projects you may have, one way to encourage members is to pass out index cards with generic or open-ended questions on them. By using a question that is "open-ended" there is no right or wrong answer, allowing even the shyest ones to contribute to a discussion.

A leader can consider their members' favourite activities. Do any of the members have a common interest they could share with each other? Allowing an opportunity for members to shine while doing something he or she is good at promotes confidence and usually results in the members being more likely to open up and enjoy their 4-H experience. Additionally, a favourite activity such as games or small group discussions will take the pressure off of a shy child and provide him or her with an instant ice breaker. 🍀

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