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# 4-H TIMES

*"4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills"*



**DECEMBER 2011**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Many, many years ago my dad frequently said "two heads are better than one". He was referring to decision making situations. Over the years I have tried to incorporate that same advice during my work and personal life. I can think of many situations when practicing such advice made my life much easier. On the other hand, there have been times when I have chosen the "go-it-alone" path. Sometimes this strategy works, but often the "go-it-alone" was not the best approach.

During a recent meeting of the Williams County 4-H Livestock Committee, those attending spent some time discussing what actions our livestock program could take to enhance skills and learning of members enrolled in beef, sheep and swine projects. Before I share the results of the discussion I want to relay a decision of the committee regarding a major policy issue.

The committee decided to rescind the policy which requires all market animals be permanently identified (tattoo) to be eligible for the 4-H Market Animal Sale. This policy was established several years ago as an effort to protect the integrity of the sale and the educational goals of the 4-H program. While market animal projects no longer are required to be permanently identified, the committee requires 4-H members to submit electronic pictures and ear tag numbers of each animal by the following dates: Steers—January 16; Lambs—May 7; Hogs—May 7.

Each 4-H member is eligible to show two animals of any of the three species. Both are eligible for show, but only one can be sold in the 4-H Market Animal Sale. The policy of two animals allowed for a fallback animal in situations of death or sickness.

Now for some good news resulting from the brainstorming session of the livestock committee. During last summer's fair, Amber Usher showed us an impressive Ohio State University publication she was using as a reference while judging rabbits. With that in mind Mary contacted staff of Ohio State University while attending the National Meeting of Extension Agents recently held in Omaha. She received a long list of 4-H materials available and ordered copies. This material was reviewed during the 4-H Livestock Committee meeting. After several leaders expressed excitement about the publications someone suggested the committee should cost-share the purchase of beef, sheep and swine materials. Soon thereafter, the committee agreed on a 50-50 cost share.

Interested 4-H members and parents are invited to review the publications at the Williams County Extension office. A group order will be placed on January 16.

The publications are packed with a lot of very good information and designed in a manner that intrigues reader-ship.

I am so glad that Mrs. Usher shared her books, Mary had the thoughtfulness to follow-up, and those attending the livestock committee meeting took the time to review and decide to make this good information available to others. For all of this I am very thankful, it is a good example of "two heads are better than one". The next time you feel alone with a problem, share it with someone. You are apt to find a solution.

May Santa Claus Treat You Well!

*Wanew*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### December

- 11 ~ Banquet West
- 12 ~ Pennies From Heaven ends
- 15 ~ 4-H Ambassador Applications due at Center for 4-H Office
- 22 ~ Registrations for ND 4-H Citizenship in Action due at Extension office
- 23-26 ~ Merry Christmas—Office Closed

### January

- 1-2 ~ Happy New Year—Office Closed
- 3 ~ Clever Clovers submit article for 4-H Times
- 10 ~ 4-H Horse Club Meeting

15-16 ~ ND 4-H Citizenship in Action



4-H Club of the Month Corner

# PRAIRIE PARTNERS 4-H CLUB



Our club meets the second Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m. We have 21 members. Election of officers for 2011-2012 was held at our November meeting. Our officers are: President: Megan Jorgenson; Vice President: Katie Harger;

Treasurer: Katie Sperling and Secretary: Walker Lee.

During the year we perform various service projects such as the Bell Ringing Before Christmas and Fill a Stocking Program for the Salvation Army. In the spring we clean the ditches of a section of the highway before Band Day.

Our activity at our November meeting was "Wired for Wind".



4-H'ers teamed up to design and build their own wind turbine.



After building their prototype they used a "Multimeter" to measure the amount of electricity each turbine was generating.



The older members mentored the younger members when building the turbines.

Written by Jacob

4-H Article  
By Jacob Goff

My name is Jacob Goff and I am one of the newest members of 4-H. My Aunt, Racael and cousins just moved to Williston and they got me to join. I heard that 4-H was a lot of fun and you get to do all kinds of stuff. The fun activities I want to do include leatherworking and woodworking. I also like animals and would like to raise my own someday. I'll maybe start with a rabbit first. I had a lot of fun building the wind turbine all by myself at the first meeting. I am looking forward to doing more fun projects next time.



## REMINDER

The 4-H Club of the Month Corner schedule is:  
January-Clever Clovers; February-Wonder Wizards; March-Corner Club;  
April-Stony Creek; May-Prairie Clovers



# MULTI-COUNTY ACTIVITY DAY



Several 4-H'ers from Williams County attended the Multi-County Activity Day at Minot on November 19, 2011.



Four Williams County 4-H members were part of a class that made baby blankets at the Multi-County Activity Day. They brought the entire classes' blankets back to Williston and donated them to Mercy Hospital.



**Citizenship in Action** will be held on January 15 & 16, 2012

This program is for any youth age 13 to 18 who is interested in citizenship and the political process. The Williams County 4-H Council will pay the registration fee for 4-H members, however, **registration forms need to be submitted to our office on or before December 22.** It is imperative that we know the number of registrants in advance so arrangements for transportation and chaperones can be made. Registration form enclosed with this newsletter.

**New this year, delegates are encouraged to become friends of North Dakota 4-H Youth Development on Facebook and join the Citizenship in Action group. Questions will be posted with this event that the delegates can answer and win free prizes! The questions are North Dakota trivia questions and may require some investigative work.**



Prairie Clovers 4-H Club delivered their homemade gifts to the Kensington residents on Tuesday, December 6.



**GOOD NEWS!**

A new 4-H club specifically designed to study horses and horsemanship is about to be organized. A group of very enthused youth and parents met November 28th. **The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 p.m., at the Ernie French Center located on the NDSU Research Extension Center west of Williston.**

Agenda will include:

- ◆ Decide on club name and logo
- ◆ Determining By-Laws (Rules by which the club will follow)
- ◆ Election of officers
- ◆ Guest Speaker

There is much excitement about the formation of this club. The excitement starts with the volunteer adult leaders, Dave Smithberg and Tana Conlin. They intend to incorporate the skills of many others in the community who will help to foster a strong knowledge of equine husbandry resulting in a fruitful and lifelong experience with horses. You do not have to own a horse to belong, just the desire to learn.

**BANQUET WEST**

Servers are needed from Williams County 4-H Clubs to help at Banquet West. The time would be from 5:00-7:30 p.m., on December 11. Contact Darci Kjos at 774-8813 if you can help. Thank you. Everyone is welcome to attend!

**North Dakota 4-H Ambassador Selections**

If you are a 4-H'er who is between the age of 16 and 22 by January 7, 2012, and interested in making a commitment to the 4-H program, you are eligible to apply to become a North Dakota 4-H Ambassador. A fillable application is available on the Center for 4-H website.

Applications are due December 15, 2011 at the state office.

ND 4-H Ambassador Selections will be made January 7 in Mandan.

**REMINDERS!**



Clever Clovers - Submit article for January 4-H Times on January 3.

JC Penney "Pennies From Heaven" continues through December 12. Remember to round up your purchase for the Williams County 4-H Youth Development Program.

*Merry Christmas*

