



# 4-H Clover Connection

Blaine County Cooperative Extension Service, 212 N. Weigle, Watonga, OK 73772 580-623-5195

October 2005

Email: [blaineco@watonga.com](mailto:blaineco@watonga.com)

## Oklahoma Youth to Celebrate National 4-H Week

Oklahoma 4-H'ers will join with more than six million other club members around the world as they celebrate National 4-H Week slated October 2-8. This year's theme is "Make the 4-H Connection."

Jim Rutledge, director of the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, said many clubs around the state have special activities planned in order to observe National 4-H Week.

"National 4-H Week is a great opportunity to let everyone know that 4-H is a wonderful and educational organization. 4-H is the largest youth organization in the world and provides many young people with a wide variety of opportunities to learn skills they will use throughout their lives," Rutledge said. "Club members learn about so many different things such as public speaking, character development, citizenship and leadership, along with skills they learn in specialized project clubs. It's also a great way for families to spend quality time together. The 4-H program encourages parental and family involvement."

Oklahoma currently has more than 142,000 members and more than 3,000 volunteers from all 77 counties. In 2005, 59 percent of the members came from farms and rural communities while 41 percent came from cities and towns with populations of more than 10,000, including some in metropolitan cities. Almost 34 percent of Oklahoma's members last year came from minority ethnic groups.

The Oklahoma 4-H program is not just for youth ages 9 to 19. Parents and other family members can become involved, too. Parental involvement is strongly encouraged at any level, but parents and other adults can enhance their involvement by

becoming volunteer club leaders or project club leaders. In addition, children ages 5 to 8 can enjoy activities as Cloverbuds.

"Adult volunteers are essential to the successful delivery of 4-H programming to youth," Rutledge said. "Oklahoma has always had a strong adult volunteer program."

The 4-H program is a joint collaboration between the United States Department of Agriculture, land-grant universities, state and local governments and private partners.

"All of these entities come together to help young people participate in a 'learning-by-doing' environment where they are able to actively participate in many different hands-on experiences," he said. "Our goal is to have these experiences make a lasting impression on the club members and their communities."

One of the biggest benefits of the 4-H program is that the educational content adapts and expands to meet the changing needs of young people around the world. The major categories of educational content include plants and animals, healthy lifestyle education, personal development and leadership, science and technology, environmental education and earth sciences, communications and expressive arts, citizenship and civic education and consumer and family sciences.

"For more than a century, the four H's – Head, Heart, Hands and Health – have been recognized as a trusted framework for excellence in positive youth development," Rutledge said.

More information about the Oklahoma 4-H program is on the Internet at <http://agweb.okstate.edu/fourh/>, or by calling the local county Extension office, usually listed under local government in the telephone directory.

## Shooting Sports The Northwest Winter Shooting Series is as follows:

Fairview -	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Taloga -	December 17 <sup>th</sup>
Watonga -	December 31 <sup>st</sup>
Buffalo -	January 14, 2006
Woodward -	January 28, 2006

## Land Judging Workshop/Contest

Alvin will be conducting a Land Judging Workshop on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. at the Blaine County Fairgrounds, Foley Building in Watonga. A computerized contest will be held Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the Geary High School Computer Lab. If necessary, another computerized contest will be held Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> in Watonga. Cash prizes of \$50 to the top team; \$20 to the second place team; and \$20 to the high individual and \$10 to the second highest score. There will be a 4-H division and an FFA division. (No age breaks)



The outdoor Land Judging Workshop and Contest will be held Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. at the Groendyke Ranch. Cash prizes will also be awarded for this contest (same as above). These contests are a joint effort of the Blaine County Cooperative Extension Service, Blaine County Conservation Districts and Landjudging.com.

## NORTHWEST DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Blaine County will be represented by Joni VanMeter, James Syzmore, Courtney Seelke, Codey Seelke, Alexa Ivins, Skyler Pittman, and Bryant Jackson. Skyler will be serving in as the State 4-H Song Leader and Joni will be running for a District Office. If you have been collecting soda top pop tabs, please send with one of these individuals. They are collecting these for the Ronald McDonald House.

## 4-H Achievement Banquet

We had an excellent group attending the Achievement Banquet at the Geary Agri-Plex. Thanks to Geary 4-H for hosting this event. Congratulations to all of our award winners and our 4-H Hall of Fame winners (Kristi Brown & Courtney Seelke).

## Farm Credit Speech Contest

Farm Credit is holding a first-time event to show additional support to Oklahoma youth. The speech contest will be open to 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders (4-H & FFA members) state-wide. To participate, you must fill out a pre-enrollment form by October 14<sup>th</sup>. No registration fee is required. The contest will be held in Enid on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Topics will include:

- 8,9,10 Grade Division (may be over any **FFA** subject Division)
- Agricultural Policy & Agribusiness (will speak as one Division)
- Animal Science & Agri-Science (will speak as one Division)
- Plant Science & Natural Resources (will speak as one Division)

## LIVESTOCK YOUTH EXPO NOMATIONS INFORMATION

**ALL 2006 OKLAHOMA YOUTH EXPO NOMATIONS (STEER, LAMB, SWINE AND MEAT GOATS) WILL BE A SELF-NOMINATION, MAIL-IN PROCESS.** There will be **NO** nomination sites. Kits may **NOT** be requested by individual exhibitors or families. The kits must be requested by the school or Extension Office. Only school and Extension Office checks will be accepted. Steer nomination kits must be requested by October 14<sup>th</sup>; sheep and goat kits by November 23<sup>rd</sup>; and swine by December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## SHARE-THE-FUN

November 5, 2005

The Blaine County Share-the-Fun contest will be held at the Liberty Theater, Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Doors will be open at 9:00 a.m. and the contest will begin at 10:00 a.m. Categories are individual or group acts. There are three types of acts: musical, novelty and dramatic (Note all types are judged together). **Please note that age requirements and group sizes have been removed.** You must be an enrolled 4-H member to participate in this contest.

Trophies will be awarded to the Grand and Reserve Grand in the group and individual at the next Achievement Program. The Grand Individual and Grand & Reserve Group will represent Blaine County at the Northwest District contest in December. A 4-H member may participate in only one group and one individual act. Each act will have a total ten (10) minutes. Two minutes to setup; six minutes to perform; and two minutes to exit and clear the stage.

An enrollment form is enclosed in this newsletter for pre-registration and scoring information. Please return forms to the Extension Office by Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> to be placed on the program. As always, our program will include the Cloverbuds following the competing acts. All Cloverbuds will be awarded participation awards.

### Blaine County Teen Leaders & Volunteers

Recently the Teen Leaders and Volunteers met to elect officers and set dates for the upcoming 4-H year.

Teen Officers elected were:

President -	Joni VanMeter
Vice President-	Kristi Brown
Secretary -	Alexa Ivins
Treasurer -	James Syzemore
Reporter -	Bryant Jackson
Song/Game Leader -	Travis Sullivan

Volunteers elected were:

President -	Valerie Garrett
Vice President -	Shannon Gosney
Secretary -	Francie Ivins
Treasurer -	Randy Garrett

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the Okeene Community Center. A training session for the leaders will be held along with regular business. Teens will have program provided by Joni and Kristi.

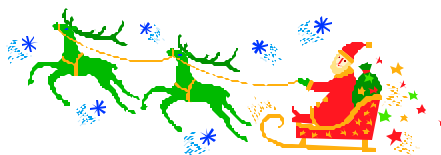
## MAKE IT WITH WOOL

“Make It With Wool” contest is scheduled for Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Woodward Tech Center. Registration is at 9 a.m. You must pre-register by October 29<sup>th</sup>. More information is available at the Extension Office.

## NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

October 22<sup>nd</sup> is National Make A Difference Day. Numerous 4-H clubs across the nation are participating in this program. For more information checkout the site: [www.usaweekend.com/diffday/](http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/)

### Santa's Village/Holiday Bazaar Saturday, December 3, 2005



Santa's Village/Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday,

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. 4-H members are in charge of the concession stand. Additional details and information will be discussed during the meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please try and attend so decision can be made!

# BLAINE COUNTY SHARE-THE-FUN CONTEST

4-H Club \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Act \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Participant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Group (2 or more participants)

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (1 participant)

**Performance**  
(interpretation,  
Talent,  
Originality)

**Appearance**  
(costume, props,  
atmosphere for  
acts)

**Projection**  
(ability to reach  
the audience)

**Polish**  
(skill, grasp of  
material, routine  
etc.)

**Audience Appeal**

30 Points

20 Points

15 Points

20 Points

15 Points

**Judges Comments:**

**SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

Points – Anytime up to ½ minute over – 2 point penalty  
½ minute to 1 minute over – 5 point penalty  
Each additional minute over – 10 point penalty

**TIME PENALTY** \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

**RANK OF ACT:**

**Blue** \_\_\_\_\_

**Red** \_\_\_\_\_

## CONSUMER ALERTS!!!!

The latest scams circulating the Consumer world. Be Warned! Be Informed!

### Scholarship Scams

Scholarship search services and financial aid websites are common. Many of these for-profit companies charge high prices to provide you with information that can be found on other websites free. Companies can legally charge high prices for their services.

What makes a scholarship service a scam is when...

- ✓ The company collects money from you to find scholarships, but you never receive the information.
- ✓ The company misrepresents itself as a government agency to attract legitimate customers.
- ✓ The company "guarantees" you a full funding for college and does not deliver.

### Play it safe

You can get free advice from a variety of sources. The best places to start are with your high school counselor or a college financial aid administrator.

### Extended Warranties

Did you know that an extended warranty is just an insurance policy? Do you really need an insurance policy on your electronics or appliance purchase? This answer is, "No".

The usage rate for extended warranties is even lower than the breakdown rate of appliances and home electronics that consumers buy the extended warranties for. So, when is it a good time to buy extended warranties? Never! Extended warranties are complete rip offs.

Retailers offer extended warranties to consumers because warranties are extremely profitable for the store. Commissioned sales representatives usually earn a higher percentage on the warranty than they do on selling the products.

Most extended warranties are for one year, and Consumer Reports found that a computer is the only electronic product that is likely to need repair in a one-year period. However, it still isn't a good idea to get an extended warranty on a computer because the value of the computer will drop to nearly nothing within a couple of years. For lower-priced electronics, an extended warranty shouldn't even be a consideration, since it will be less expensive to directly replace the product than to pay for the warranty.

### Play it safe

- ❖ Take the money you would have spent on a service contract and create a repair fund.
- ❖ If you already have a service contract, keep it in a safe place. You will need your original copy to make a claim.

### Free Credit Report Scams

Have you heard that you can get a free credit report, but you're not sure where to go? You might start by entering the term "free credit report" into Google's search function, but it returns more than one million, eight-hundred and fifty thousand available websites. Now that's not much help! Where do you begin? You're not the only one who is confused and unfortunately, plenty of criminal outfits are claiming they will give you a free credit report. These scam artists have set up legitimate-looking websites, and they ask you to enter your personal information under the pretense of your receiving a free credit-report. Despite their friendly façade, their intent is to use your personal information to steal your identity and money.

### Play it safe

- Annual Credit Report.com is the only website that offers you a safe, secure, and free credit report.
- Do not give out your personal information to any other free credit report website.