April 2012
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4-H Expressive Arts Contests- Enclosed you will find entry forms for talent, craft and fashion contests. Talent Show entry forms are due on Tuesday May 1st. We must have at least 5 acts for the talent show to be held. No late entries or forms accepted. All crafts and fashion show garments and all entry forms are due to the 4-H Office by Monday May 7th. The 4-H Expressive Arts Show will be held on Thursday, May 10th at First Baptist Church –Fellowship Hall in Taylorsville beginning at 7:00 pm. Photo contest winners will also be on display and results of all the contests announced.

4-H Presentations- A 4-H Presentation is a method of sharing a skill or something you have enjoyed learning about. Presentation competition is for youth ages 9-18 years old. Cloverbuds (5-8 years old) can also prepare a presentation for county and district but there is no competition. We will also help you develop an outline and sketch ideas for your posters. Deadline to register is May 29th for a presentation. The district 4-H presentation contest will be held on Wednesday, June 20th in Alleghany County. Call the 4-H Office for a list of categories that are available.

4-H Mini Garden Project- Alexander County 4-H will provide 4-H’ers with seeds, mystery seed and 4 tomato plants for a mini garden. Seeds to be provided include beans, corn, cucumbers, and squash. Participants are encouraged to complete a garden project book and are eligible to have their garden judged for prizes in the summer. In addition, participants will be eligible to enter the 4-H Scarecrow Contest which is sponsored by the Alexander 4-H Livestock Club. Deadline to sign up is April 12th. Seed/plants will be available after that date.

4-H’ers Plant an Extra Row- Alexander County 4-H is sponsoring the “4-H’ers Plant an Extra Row” to provide fresh produce from your garden to senior adults and other county citizens not able to garden on their own. A $25 gift card will be provided to the 4-H’ers in the following age divisions (8-under; 9-12 and 13-18) who have provided the most fresh vegetables to those in need. A form will be provided to those wishing to keep up with the poundage. For a form and more information, please contact the 4-H Office. The contest will begin June 1st and run through October 1st.

4-H Summer Opportunities- There are still spaces still available for workshops, day camps and other events planned this summer. Call the 4-H Center to receive a summer camp brochure or go to http://alexander.ces.ncsu.edu/.

4-H Community Service Project- Handy Dandy 4-H Club would like for you to continue collecting your Campbell Soup Labels for the Barium Springs Home in Troutman. One Club of the Year point will be given for each label turned into the 4-H Office.

Alexander County Spring Goat Show- will be held on Saturday, May 5th at the Alexander County Fairgrounds. A youth showmanship show will begin at 11:00 am followed by the junior market wether, and junior commercial doe show. The ABGA sanctioned open show will begin at approximately 1:00 pm. A listing of divisions/classes and an entry form can be obtained at http://alexander.ces.ncsu.edu/.
**Purple Up! For Military Kids**- April marks the nation’s “Month of the Military Child,” a time to honor youth impacted by deployment. In celebration, North Carolina Operation: Military Kids (OMK), part of the 4-H Youth Development program of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, invites you to join us for the 2nd annual “Purple Up! For Military Kids.”

We are encouraging everyone across the state of North Carolina to wear purple on Friday April 13th, as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. OMK hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes.

**West Central District 4-H Horse Show**- will be held on May 12th at Latta Plantation in Huntersville. Entries must be postmarked by April 14th. Please call the 4-H office for a registration packet.

**Horse Artistic Expression Contests**- Entry forms for the State 4-H Horse Artistic Expressions Contests must be postmarked by May 1st. Entries are due the Thursday during the State 4-H Horse Show in Raleigh. Categories include Craft Horse Contest, Horse Drawing Contest, Horse Painting Contest, Horse Poster Contest, Horse Photography, Horse Essay, Creative Writing and Poetry Contests. For guidelines and entry forms, call the 4-H Center or go to: [http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/Webpages/NCSU_EHH_Artistic_Expression.html](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/Webpages/NCSU_EHH_Artistic_Expression.html). Entry forms and fees must be sent directly to Raleigh. Please note that contest items and essays are to be hand delivered to the State 4-H Horse Show in Raleigh on Thursday, July 7th from 10 am—4 pm.

**4-Hers and Volunteers in the News**

**NC 4-H Volunteer Association Officers’ Seminar**- was held March 4-6 in Raleigh. *Mike Adams, Nicole Tadt* and *Micki Earp* attended the training from Alexander County.

**NC 4-H Horse Bowl Contest**- was held on March 3rd at NC A & T University- Senior Team- *Alex Felkins, Amanda Steskal, Christine Rhodes* and *Kasey Boger* placed 8th overall in this event. Team was coached by *Cindy Boger*. A special thanks to *Julie Rhodes* who served as a volunteer for the event. Team members belong to the Silver Saddles 4-H Horse Club.

*Christine Rhodes* received 8th place High Scoring Individual for the NC 4-H Senior Division for Horse Bowl. She has been offered the chance to participate at regional and national levels on the State Team 4-H Horse Bowl Team.

**West Central 4-H Teen Retreat**- was held on March 11-13th at Penn 4-H Center. *Courtney Bowman, Trevor Davis* and *Dallas Perry* attended the retreat from Alexander County. Congratulations to *Dallas Perry* who was elected the 2011-12 West Central 4-H Council President. Thanks to *Trevor* and *Courtney* who helped with their campaign skit.

**4-H Operation Military Kids Thank You Notes**- Thanks to the following 4-H Clubs which help prepare thank you cards for Operation Military Kids: **Handy Dandy 4-H Club- 21; Alexander 4-H Livestock Club- 54 and Curious Clovers 4-H Club- 38.**

**West Central 4-H Teen Retreat**- was held on March 9-11th at Penn 4-H Center. *Nicolas Dyson, Faith Wahlers* and *Dallas Perry* attended the retreat from Alexander County. *Dallas Perry* helped plan and presided this event as West Central 4-H Council President.

**BackPack Project**- Thanks to the following 4-H’ers who helped pack backpacks with food during 4-H County Council on March 15th: *Hunter White, Bailey Ingle, Faith Wahlers, Summer, Cheyenne & Chayton Chamley, Kaylor & Lerin Berwick, Michala Brown, Dallas Perry, Courtney Bowman, Nicolas Dyson, Micki Earp, Mikii, Nathan, Amber, Audrey, and Katie Bowles.*

**Harlem Ambassadors Basketball Game**- Thanks to the following 4-H’ers and volunteer leaders who helped United Way host this fundraiser on March 15th: *Gavin, Gabrielle & Mike Adams,* and *Cheyenne Chamley.*

**Commissioners’ Choice Awards Program**- was held on March 20th at ACHS Cafeteria.

**Youth Club Awards:**

- 2nd place- Alexander 4-H Livestock Club- $125
- 3rd place- Handy Dandy 4-H Club- $75

We are proud that 2 out of 3 youth awards went to 4-H Clubs.

**Youth Spark Award Winners**: *Margo Mosley.*

**March 4-H Mystery Trip**- was held on Monday, March 26th. The following 4-H’ers enjoyed exploring the Energy Explorium at McGuire Nuclear Plant and the movie Lorax in the afternoon: *Jonna Williams, Sarah & Dallas Perry, Paige Harrington, Aubrie & Culver Holland, Lance & Taylor Garland, Gavin & Griffin Duncan, Jeb & Faith Brookshire,* Junior Leaders: *Nicolas Dyson and Faith Wahlers.*

**Top Shots 4-H Shooting Sports Club**- traveled to the NC Wildlife Educational Shooting Sports Tournament on Saturday, March 24th. Those competing were *Alex Fox, Grant Mitchell, Haylee Sharpe, Tanner Ingle, Faith Wahlers, Lilia Jenkins, Caleb Gilreath, Jonathan Eckerd, Ty Lewis* and *Jeremy Law.*
Alexander 4-H Livestock Club met Monday, March 5, 2012. The topic was on OMK (Operation Military Kids). We went into detail of what these kids was going thru and what we could do to help make their day a little brighter. We filled out 54 thank you cards to the kids, thanking them for sharing their parents for our freedom in our USA. These cards were written with a compassionate heart from our youth of the club.

Cornerstone Clovers 4-H Club Cornerstone Clovers 4-H Club met on Wednesday March 21, 2012. Courtney Gant was our leader teaching us how to make can holders and hair bows out of Duct Tape. It was fun. Aubrey and Culver brought Klondike bars for snack. The next meeting will be our community project on April 14th. Submitted By: Jonna Williams.

Emeralds 4-H Club Micki and Tanner taught the group about the science of architecture and the members built structures.

Handy Dandy 4-H Club Our meeting this month centered on community service. We worked at Forgiven Ministries, helping them get ready for their next trip. We also prepared the Campbell’s soup labels for mailing to Barium Springs Children’s Home. We also wrote a thank you card to the Caring Heart Pregnancy center with a gift basket. We talked about our next meeting and reminded everyone of the Commissioner’s Choice Banquet. Submitted By: Sarah Perry.

Homegrown Hearts 4-H Club met at the 4H office Friday, March 9th. Suzanne Rhinehart did our program on ‘Farm Safety’ it was a fun game! Our next meeting will be April 13th, at 9:30 at the 4H office. Any homeschooler is invited to attend! Submitted By: Kaylor Berwick.

Rocky Springs 4-H Club held their monthly meeting on March 12th, 2012. The meeting was called to order by the president, and then was turned over to Bobby Dayvault, who did a program about parliamentary procedure. The snacks were provided by the Dayvault Family. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on 4/9/12. If anyone wishes to join the club, please call (828)-632-9121. Submitted By: Mary Alice Cook.

Shockers 4-H Club learned how to make a plant moisture electronic testing device which required soldering.

Sugar and Spice 4-H Cooking Club Faith Wahlers demonstrated how to make frittatas.