December 2011

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4-H Project Books Due - Project books exhibiting work completed between December 1, 2010- November 30, 2011 are due to the 4-H Office on Monday, December 5th by 5:00 pm. Remember to include the project record form for your age group with your project book. Project books cannot be judged without this form.

4-H Achievement Plans/Club Scrapbooks Due - to the 4-H office by Friday, January 13th by 5:00 pm. Achievement Awards are awarded at 5 different levels. If you are unsure of what a 4-H achievement plan is, call the 4-H office to receive a copy.

New 4-H Electric Club - There will be an informational meeting for anyone wanting to join the new 4-H Electric Project Club on Thursday, December 8th at 6 pm in the Extension Learning Center. The club will be designed for youth 8 years and up. Call the 4-H Office to register.

4-H Gingerbread House Contest -
1. All contest entries must arrive at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Center no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, December 14th.
2. Entries will be judged by 2 pm on Wednesday, December 15th. Entries may be picked up after 3 pm on December 15th.
3. Entries may be placed on a base not more than 20” x 20”. None can exceed 2 feet in height.
4. No decorations (icing or others) may be on the side of the base.
5. The entire display except for the base must be made of edible materials. Styrofoam and other support materials are not permitted. Entries must be constructed mainly of gingerbread and icing; unwrapped candy and other edible material may also be used. Gingerbread “houses” can also be barns, birdhouses, doghouses, lighthouses and other imaginative dwellings. “Edible” materials include candies, nuts, cereal, crackers, pasta and any other edible food item that does not include a wrapper, stick or other non-edible materials.
6. The competition is open to Alexander County 4-H members.
7. Entries will be judged on creativity/originality, decorating detail and theme.
8. Youth entrants may receive adult assistance in baking the gingerbread, but the design, construction, and decoration must be solely by the youth entrant.

Age Divisions: 8-under; 9-13 and 14-18 years old
Prizes: 1st place- $20 4-H Scholarship; 2nd place- $10 4-H Scholarship and 3rd place- $5 4-H Scholarship.

Hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season!
Beginning Beekeepers Course- If you’ve ever been interested in taking up beekeeping, well here’s your chance! Beginning January 9th, there will be a beginning beekeepers course taught at the Alexander Extension Center. This will be from 6:00-7:00pm each second Monday of the month for 3 months, then an all-day hands-on class will be held Saturday, March 24th. The cost for the class is $20 with the strong recommendation of buying “Beekeeping for Dummies” by Howland Blackiston, which usually runs around $15. The course is designed for all 4-H age groups and up. It is not limited to 4-H’ers, but participants 8-under must be accompanied by an adult.

Topics to be covered in the class include: biology of the honeybee, basic beekeeping equipment, hives, beginning beekeeping, management, honey, and beeswax and other products of the hive. If starting out brand new, to buy a beginner’s kit, hive body, equipment and bees, total cost usually runs around $300. At the end of the class, a drawing will be held by the participants for a complete hive body and for a smoker. Also, at the end of the class a mentor will be assigned to each graduating beginning beekeeper to assist them in their start-up efforts if desired.

To sign up for the class come by the Alexander Extension Center to provide your information and pay your $20. Also, you can call the office at 632-4451 for more information or to sign up and get details on mailing your check in. Payment must be received by January 1st to secure your spot in the class.

Health Rocks Lock-In- Friday, December 30th, Catawba County Extension Center will host a for youth ages 10-13. Come and kick-off the new year with Health Rocks! Interactive activities to create a healthier start in 2012 - learn about managing teen stress, making better decisions, dealing with peer pressure, and the dangers of tobacco and alcohol use. The afternoon and evening will feature Health Rocks activities led by 4-H teens, a community service project and evening of fun at Skateland. The event will start at 12:30 pm (eat lunch before you arrive). If you bring a group of 3 or more from your county, plan to send an adult to stay with them. The deadline to register is December 15th.

Project Book Judges- We will be swapping project books with another county in December. We will need at least 8 volunteers and parents to judge 4-H project books. If you can help, please call the 4-H Office.

State 4-H Volunteer Leader Conference- will be held February 3-5, 2012, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Raleigh. Alexander 4-H Clubs will pay for any volunteers that wishes to attend. Please call the 4-H Center by January 7th if you wish to attend. Lodging and registration will need to be completed at that time.

West Central 4-H Teen Lock-In- will be held on Friday, January 14- Saturday, January 15, 2012 in Caldwell County. Cost and program is yet to be determined for 4-H’ers ages: 13 and up. We will have a light breakfast, clean up and dismiss by 7:30 am. Deadline to register is January 6th.

2012 Summer Camp Date- Alexander County 4-H’ers will be traveling to Penn 4-H Camp next summer to attend a week of summer camp- June 24-29, 2012 . Participants will swim, canoe, ride horses, make crafts, learn about nature, and explore outdoor living. The camp week is designed for youth ages 8-14 years old. Adventurers (ages 12-14) participate on High Ropes, canoeing, GPS (global positioning systems) and enjoy a geo caching adventure. Trekkers (ages 13-14) participate in High Ropes, learn rock climbing, river canoeing, and go on an off-site trip. Adventurers and Trekkers do not participate in horseback riding. If you wish to participate in the Adventure or Trekker program, you must let us know when you register. Campers 13-14 years old can also choose to be a traditional camper. Your cost will be $350 which includes all camper fees, camp t-shirt, $15 store money, transportation, and meals while at camp. 30 trekker Fee is $370. The real cost is $390 plus transportation but Alexander 4-H helps bring the cost down for each camper. We will need a $50 deposit to hold your space by February 1st. We will return all unclaimed spots after Feb. 1st. The remainder of the balance is due June 1st. We only have 5 male and 5 female spaces available.

Items Needed for Workshop- We are now collecting food bags for a project at the end of January. Please save your cellophane type food/snack bags and turn them into the 4-H Office for 2 Club of the Year points for each item turned in. Examples are bags of crackers, rice, candy, cookies, chips, raisins, or even drink wrapper. If the bag held something that would be sticky or smelly, please rinse it out first. If you have any questions about specific items that are needed, please email Micki Earp at 13micki@gmail.com.

4-H’ers of the Year Awards- 4-H County Council approved the formation of Cloverbud and Junior Levels of 4-H’er of the Year. A committee will choose the most outstanding Cloverbud 4-H’er (ages 5-8) and Junior 4-H’er (9-13 years old). Each age group will have a male and female winner. A youth can only win the award one time per age group. Applications may be obtained from the 4-H Center and are due by January 13th.

Amy Shook 4-H Leadership Award- This award is for 4-H’ers 13 -older who have performed outstanding 4-H leadership activities. Applications may be obtained from the 4-H Center and are due by January 13th.

4-H College Scholarships/Honor Club Applications Due- If you are graduating in 2011 from high school, you may want to check out the 4-H college scholarships that are available. Call the 4-H Office to receive a scholarship packet. Scholarship information is due on Monday, January 27th to the 4-H Office. If your 4-H age is 16 on January 1st, you are eligible to apply for the NC 4-H Honor Club. Only 1/2 of 1 percent of North Carolina’s total membership are inducted each year. Applications are due to the 4-H Office by Monday, January 27th.
ESL Day- was held on October 29th at ACHS Cafeteria. Thanks to the following for being in charge of the 4-H Booth: Hunter White, Dallas and Sarah Perry.

State 4-H Leadership Retreat- Dallas Perry was declared the winner of the West Central 4-H Youth Volunteer Award. This award was presented to Dallas at the State 4-H Teen Leadership Conference held at Sertoma 4-H Center on November 4-5th. During the State 4-H Leadership Conference, Dallas coordinated a state workshop on Personality Plus which analyzes personality traits.

4-H Club Officer Training- was held on November 3rd. 4-H’ers attending were Vanessa & Miranda Jansen, Faith Wahlers, Sarah & Dallas Perry, Peri Munday, Brooke & Dylan Kohne, Kaylor Berwick, Cheyenne & Summer Chumley, Gabrielle & Gavin Adams, Aubrie Holland, Nicolas Dyson, Zachary Herman, Matthew, Timmy, & Mary Alice Cook, Jonna Williams, Grace Kaiser, Sara Sigmon, Hannah Nine, Emma Sigmon, Jasmine Baumgarner, Bailey Ingle, Faith Brookshire, and Anna Beth Harris.

2012 Alexander 4-H County Council Officers- were elected at 2011 4-H Club Officer Training.
President- Hunter White, Emeralds & WHEP 4-H Clubs
Vice President- Miranda Jansen, Emeralds and Busy Bees 4-H Clubs
Secretary- Faith Wahlers, Busy Bees, WHEP & Sugar & Spice 4-H Club
Treasurer- Dallas Perry, Handy Dandy 4-H Club
Reporter- Nicolas Dyson, Home Grown Hearts 4-H Club

West Central 4-H Volunteer Leaders’ Fall Day- was held on Saturday, November 12th in Alexander County at East Taylorsville Baptist Church. Those attending from Alexander County were Nicole Tadt, Mike Adams, Lerin Berwick, Merylin Davis, Micki Earp, Stephanie Holland, Shelly Brown. Nicole Tadt, District President-Elect planned a wonderful day for the 4-H Volunteer Leaders from the West Central District. Laura Wahlers, West Central District President presided over the meeting.

District Officers for 2012 from Alexander County are Nicole Tadt: President; Laura Wahlers- Past President and Mike Adams- District Treasurer.

Thanks to the following 4-H volunteers for teaching workshops: Mike Adams, Nicole Tadt, and Micki Earp.

Alexander 4-H Livestock Club was in charge of a wonderful baked spaghetti lunch. A special thanks to the following people who either helped cook or set up for the event: Dennis & Faith Wahlers (photographer and basket raffles), Stephanie & Aubrie Holland, Shelly Michala, & Marissa Brown, Cecilia & Seth Tadt, Gavin & Gabrielle Adams and the Alexander County 4-H Volunteers in attendance.

4-H Bake-Off- was held on Tuesday, November 16th. Best of Show Awards of $20 were awarded to the following youth in each age division:

Best of Show Awards:
8-Under: Brogan Chumley
9-12 Year Old: Raven Gendron
13-18 Year Old: Erin Griggs

8-Under Division
Cakes 3rd Chayton Chumley
Pies 1st Brogan Chumley

9-12 Year Old Division
Biscuits 2nd Kelly Icard
Part. Summer Chumley
Cakes 1st Tyler Griggs
2nd Sara Heath
3rd Raven Gendron
Part. Summer Chumley
Candy 1st Raven Gendron
2nd Sara Heath
3rd Jonna Williams
Part. Kelly Icard
Part. Sara Heath

Cookies 1st Summer Chumley
2nd Bailey Ingle
3rd Jonna Williams
Part. Raven Gendron
Part. Kelly Icard
Part. Sara Heath

Decorated Cake 1st Sara Heath
2nd Summer Chumley

Healthy Item 1st Courtney Gant
2nd Raven Gendron
3rd Sara Heath

Quick Breads 3rd Jonna Williams
Part. Kelly Icard

Muffins 1st Kelly Icard
2nd Raven Gendron
3rd Sara Heath

Pies 1st Raven Gendron
2nd Jonna Williams
3rd Kelly Icard
Part. SummerChumley
Part. Tyler Griggs

13-18 Year Old Division
Biscuits 1st Faith Wahlers
2nd Elizabeth Wahlers
3rd Courtney Bowman

Cakes 1st Erin Griggs
2nd Courtney Bowman
3rd Faith Wahlers
Part. Elizabeth Wahlers

Candy 1st Erin Griggs
2nd Elizabeth Wahlers
3rd Courtney Bowman
Part. Faith Wahlers

Cookies 1st Courtney Bowman
2nd Elizabeth Wahlers
3rd Erin Griggs

Decorated Cakes 1st Courtney Bowman
2nd Cheyenne Chumley
3rd Elizabeth Wahlers

Healthy Item 2nd Elizabeth Wahlers
4-H Bake Off (Continued)

Quick Breads  
1st  Courtney Bowman  
2nd  Elizabeth Hollar

Muffins  
1st  Elizabeth Hollar  
2nd  Courtney Bowman  
3rd  Faith Wahlers

Pies  
1st  Faith Wahlers  
2nd  Elizabeth Hollar  
3rd  Courtney Bowman

Yeast Breads  
2nd  Faith Wahlers  
3rd  Courtney Bowman

National 4-H Poultry Judging Team- The Alexander/Wilkes 4-H Poultry Judging Team represented North Carolina 4-H at the National contest held at the North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky held November 15-18th. Vanessa Jansen and Blake Millsaps from Alexander County were members of the judging team. This team placed 10th overall in the nation out of 20 teams, 6th in Market Eggs and 10th Live Birds. Team was coached by Kathy Bunton, Area Specialized Agent-Poultry and Vickie Shew, Wilkes County 4-H Volunteer Leader.

Miranda Jansen was a member of the North Carolina 4-H Avian Quiz Bowl which also competed at nationals. The team placed 8th in the nation.

WAY TO GO!

Also in attendance were Kyle Mayberry, Jeb Brookshire, Tass Jansen, and Allison Brown.

4-H Holiday Craft Workshop- was held on November 23rd. 4-H’ers attending were Jeb & Faith Brookshire, Trey Matthews, , Scott Micheal Westmoreland Jr, Cierra & Landon Roseberry, Katelyn Harrington, Garrett Brown, Joseph & Joshua King, Shelby Ballard, Sarah Perry, Jordan Suttle, Trinity Swink, Tanner Harrington, Julianna Cronan, and Kaylor Hicks. Special thanks to junior leaders Miranda & Vanessa Jansen, Nicolas Dyson, Dallas Perry, Hunter White, Courtney Bowman, Cecilia Tadt, Faith Wahlers, and Gabrielle Adams.

Cornerstone Clovers 4-H Club- met in October at the home of Malachi, Jacob, and Sarah Fox. We constructed Marshmellow Shooters and praticed their function. Thank you to the Fox family for the eventful meeting. We met in November at the home of Nathan, Amber, and Audrey Bowles. We constructed and painted Blue Bird Houses. These birdhouses will be delivered to accepting nursing homes for our December meeting.

Handy Dandy 4-H Club-We met on Nov. 8th. We worked for 2 hours at Forgiven Ministries. We folded inserts for newsletter, labeled CD for mailing and worked crafts. Afterwards, we went to the 4-H office and worked on Project Books and Achievement Plans. Submitted By: Sarah Perry.

Homegrown Hearts 4-H Club- met at the 4H Learning Center on Friday, November 11th. The Berwick family talked about having a small flock of backyard chickens and how to get started. For our snack & craft we decorated Rice Krispy treats. Our next meeting will be December 9th at 9:30 am at the Extension Learning Center- any homeschooler in the county is welcome. We will be painting ‘reindeer shirts’ so everyone needs to bring a clean, plain white shirt and wear old clothes. We will be using our feet & hands to paint, so each family should also bring an old towel to dry off & help clean up. Submitted By: Kaylor Berwick.

New 4-H Electric Club- On Thursday November 10th, the new electric 4-H club met at the 4-H office. We planned our year and scheduled our next meeting which will be held on Thursday December 8th beginning at 6:00 pm. We will be sharing our completed electric projects with the rest of the group. All are encouraged to attend. Submitted By: Courtney Bowman.

Rocky Springs 4-H Club– On November 14th, 2011, we held a meeting at the Rocky Springs Community Building. The club was called to order by the president, Matthew Cook, and a presentation was held by Mary Alice Cook, on making Duct-tape bill folds. The refreshements were provided by the Dayvault family. The club would like to welcome our guest Caleb Frye, and hopes that he would joing us again. Our next meeting will be held on December, 14th, 2011, at the Rocky Springs Community Building. If anyone would like to join our 4-H Club, call (828)-632-9121. Thanks!!! Submitted By: Mary Alice Cook.

Sugar and Spice 4-H Club- had a meeting on November 3rd. We elected officers. Our officers are: President- Faith Wahlers; Vice-President- Summer Chumley; Secretary- Bailey Ingle; Reporter- Brooke Kohnle; Pledge Leaders- Cheyenne Chumley and Jasmine Baumgarner; County Council Representative- Anna Beth Harris. Our next meeting is December 1st. We will have a cookie exhange and Dirty Santa. We drew names and we will buy a $5 or less gift. If you are wanting to come and visit, please join us. Submitted By: Anna Beth Harris.