Application, Interview, Resume and Essay (AIRE)- Do you want to travel to National 4-H Trips? To receive a scholarship for any National 4-H Events, you must participate in AIRE. Anyone 13- older can participate. Micki Earp has served as a state interviewer for the AIRE program. If you are interested in participating in a workshop to learn about AIRE, call the 4-H Office. Once we have a list of participants, we will work around their schedules to set a date for the workshop.

4-H Photo Contest- Get together or start taking your best photos taken since March 1, 2011. You may enter one photo per category... people, animals, landscapes, buildings, 4-H in Action, Nature's Beauty, and Family Traditions. County photo winners in the 9-18 year old divisions for the last 3 categories can be sent on to the state 4-H photo contest. Overall county points winner will receive $40 to purchase a camera or pay for film processing. Call the 4-H office to receive a photo contest entry form. Deadline for photo entries is February 29th.

West Central 4-H Teen Retreat- is scheduled for March 9th-11th at Penn 4-H Center for 4-H’ers 13-19 years old. The cost for the retreat is $85 per person. Transportation will be provided. Registration for teen retreat is due by February 24th. There will also be games, a bonfire, dance and district officer elections. Please also let us know your t-shirt size when you call to register.

4-H Poultry Judging Team- Alexander County hopes to have its own junior and senior poultry judging teams this year. The teams will be trained by Kathy Bunton, Area Specialized Poultry Agent. The training sessions will be with Wilkes and Iredell County. There will be one training each month through May. The trainings will rotate between counties. The training dates are: Thursday, February 23rd - Wilkes County, Monday, March 19th - Alexander County Tuesday, April 24th - Iredell County and Tuesday - May 2nd - Wilkes County. Summer training sessions and field trips will be determined after the May training session in preparation for the State 4-H Poultry Judging Contest on Monday, July 16th in Raleigh. We will have junior teams (9-13 year olds) and senior teams (14-18 year olds). Poultry Judging involves: Egg Production – Past Production Hens; Market Poultry - Ready to Cook and Parts Identification and Eggs: Interior, Exterior and Broken out Eggs. For more information, go to: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/4h/poultryjudging/poultryjudging.html Please call the 4-H Office to register by February17th.

Project Records—Basic 101- Come learn how to get your child involved in 4-H project records on Tuesday, February 28th, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, in the Extension Learning Center. Project Records record a child’s work in a specific area for a year or less. Project records are judged on the county level and then advance on to district competition. Call the 4-H Office by February 27th to sign up.
4-H Cumulative Records Due- If you are 13 years or older and have been active in a specific project book area for 1 to 3 years, then you may want to consider completing a cumulative record. The form is similar to a 4-H project book but covers your work in that area for the past 2-3 years. If you are interested in beginning your 4-H cumulative record, call the 4-H office for more information. Deadline for 4-H Cumulative Records to the 4-H Office is February 24th. Cash prizes are provided at the state level up to $150. Many of our local 4-H’ers have received this prize money.

Commissioner’s Choice Applications Due- 4-H volunteers should have received applicatons in the mail. If you would like to receive this application in a Word Format, please let us know and we will email you a copy. Forms are also available on the Alexander County Extension website. This is a great opportunity for your club to receive recognition for all the outstanding projects you did last year. Copies of your clubs’ 2011 Club of the Year form are available at the 4-H Office. Applications are due on March 1st.

Campbell’s Soup Labels- Please continue to collect Campbell Soup Labels for Barium Springs Homes for Children in Troutman. Bring them to the 4-H Office and your club will receive 1 club of the year point per label.

February 4-H County Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16th from 3:30-4:30 pm in the small conference room.

4-H’ers and Volunteers in the News

Micki Earp- has been chosen to serve as a member on the State Extension Advisory Council This is a high honor for an Extension Volunteer.

TANNER INGLE- Tanner is one of a four member Senior team representing NC 4-H Shooting Sports on the Archery team. The team will travel to Grand Island Nebraska June 17-23rd to compete at Grand Island Shooting Facility in the National 4-H Shooting Sports competition. NC also has a gun team that will be competing as well. Teams will compete over 4 days in various competitions. Tanner will compete with his bow in area in both target and field archery competitions. Individual and team awards will be given out.

Lincoln County 4-H Project Book Judges- Thanks to the following people who served as judges for judging project books- Micki Earp, Nicole Tadt, Laura Wahlers, Faith Wahlers, Trudy Perry, Dallas Perry, Merylin Davis, Brenda Bowman and Courtney Bowman.

West Central 4-H Teen Lock-In- Dallas Perry, Faith Wahlers, Nicolas Dyson- joined 77 other teens from the district in Caldwell County January 13-14th for a lock-in. The group participated in two leadership related workshops and enjoyed going to Bo’s in Lenoir for laser tag, bowling and arcade games.

2011 4-H Awards Program- was held on Tuesday, January 31st Emcee: Hunter White
Pledges: Miranda Jansen

Bailey Ingle- 4-H High Achievement Trophy

Achievement Medallions- (4 or more blue/champion projects)
Courtney Bowman (4)  Faith Wahlers (4)
Dallas Perry (4)  Brook Kohnle (4)
Sarah Perry (4)

Amy Shook 4-H Leadership Award– Faith Wahlers

4-H Volunteer Tenure Awards- 10 Year Tenure Award—Trudy Perry
35 Year Tenure Award—Micki Earp

2011 4-H Club of the Distinction- Alexander 4-H Livestock Club
2011 Club Project Completion Pizza Party- Handy Dandy 4-H Club.

Boots and Breeches 4-H Club- met at Foothills Equestrian Center in Bethlehem on January 2nd at 7:00 pm. Our club just recently bought supplies, and packed shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse for Operation Christmas Child. We considered going, and volunteering at one of thier locations, but all volunteer opportunities were full. Even though that did not happen the shoe boxes were a huge success. In other news, there will be a jumping clinic held at the stables on January 15th. It will be taught by Dana Dewey. We were also making plans to hopefully help out at a local soup kitchen. At our meeting we had a wonderful program on horse massage, taught by Dana Dewey. December was a huge success, and we are looking forward to moving into what January brings. Submitted By: Emma Sigmon.

Busy Bees 4-H Club— met on January 26th, 2012, at the Extension Office. Micki Earp showed us how to make a reusable sandwich wrap from oil cloth. Submitted By: Courtney Bowman

Curious Clovers 4-H Club- met at the Carolina Theater to view the true inspiring story of The Dolphin Tale. All enjoyed watching this true story of Winter the dolphin and two courageous children, one of which was home schooled.

Cornerstone Clovers 4-H Club- met on January 18th, 2012. The meeting was presented by Suzanne Rhinehart. We learned about solar energy. We made our own panels to see which ones worked best to make wind energy. Courtney Gant brought cookies for a snack. Submitted By: Jonna Williams.
**Emeralds 4-H Club** met on Thursday, January 12. Members decorated a new Ronald McDonald House box for can tabs, to be kept at the 4-H office. Paige Harrington, Faith Brookshire, Macy Chapman and her friend, demonstrated gymnastics for the club. Submitted By: Faith Brookshire.

**Rocky Springs 4-H Club**- On January 9th 2012, the Rocky Springs 4-H Club held a meeting at the Rocky Springs Community Building. They had potluck, and a short meeting. Suzanne Rhinehart gave a demonstration on making wind-turbines. Then the 4-H'ers had a contest to see which team could get the highest voltage. If anyone wishes to join our club, please call, (828)-632-9121. Our next meeting will be held on **February 13th at 7:00 pm, at the Rocky Springs Community Building.** Submitted By: Maryanne Cook.

**Shockers 4-H Club**- The club’s next meeting will be on Monday, **February 28th, at 6:00 pm**, Please call the 4-H Office on joining or if you need more information about this club.

**Sugar and Spice 4-H Cooking Club**- met on January 5th at the 4-H office. Ann Munday did a presentation on package meals. We each got to make our own package meal, and sampled them. Our club made plans and talked about future meetings. Our visitors were: Dylan Kohnle, Kelly & Sarah Icard, Gracie Templeton, and Chayton Chumley. Our next meeting will be on February 2nd. Submitted By: Brook Kohnle.

**Top Shots 4-H Shooting Sports Club**- met on January 9th for their first meeting of the year and made plans to prepare for future contests. The club also met on Friday, January 20th at Vashti Ball Field for a practice session. Club members are reminded to pay their **$25** annual amino fees.