Special accommodations will be made for the physically disabled, vision or hearing impaired, anyone needing language interpretation or other provisions. If any of these are required, please call 828-632-3125 two weeks prior to the event.

State 4-H Volunteer Leader Conference- will be held February 5-7, 2010, 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 4th if you wish to attend. Lodging and registration will need to be completed at that time.

4-H Awards Night- is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26 from 7:00-8:30 pm at the CVCC-Alexander County Center (Room 103). Awards for project books, presentations, cumulative records and volunteer tenure will be presented. All new club and county 4-H officers will be installed. All new 4-H club members will officially become members.

4-H Cumulative Records Due- If you are 13 years or older and have been active in a specific project book area for 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 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 Feb. 22th. Cash prizes are provided at the state level up to $150. Many of our local 4-H’ers have received this prize money.

4-H Photo Contest- Get together or start taking your best photos taken since March 1, 2009. 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 will be eligible for the state 4-H photo contest. Overall county points winner will receive $40 to purchase a camera or pay for film processing. Digital photos will be accepted this year. The photo contest entry form is included in this newsletter. Deadline for photo entries is February 26th.

4-H Achievement Plans/Club Scrapbooks Due- to the 4-H office by January 8th 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.

4-H’er 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 15th.

Drink Tab Collection Update- Alexander 4-H County Council has decided to continue the drink tab collection community service project again this year. To date, Alexander 4-H’ers have collected over 500 pounds of tabs. The money collected from the tabs go to the Ronald McDonald House. Please check larger tabs that are pulled off soup and other food containers. Most of those tabs are made of steel and cannot be collected since the drink tabs are aluminum.
Alexander County 4-H'ers will be traveling to Penn 4-H Camp next summer to attend a week of summer camp- **August 1-6, 2010.** 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, learn 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 **$270** which includes all camper fees, transportation, and meals while at camp. Trekker Fee is **$290.** The real cost is **$325** 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 1**. We will return all unclaimed spots after February 1st. The remainder of the balance is due **June 1**. We only have 5 male and 5 female spaces available.

**College Scholarships Due**- If you are graduating in 2010 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 11th** to the 4-H Office.

**Honor Club Applications Due**- If your 4-H age is 16 on January 1st, you are eligible to apply for the NC 4-H Honor Club. Only ½ of 1 percent of North Carolina’s total membership are inducted each year. Applications are due to 4-H Office by **Monday, January 11th**.

**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 15th**.

**2010 4-H Calendar of Events**- Enclosed you will find a calendar of events for 2010. These dates are tentative. We will take reservations for events once they are listed in the 4-H newsletter. Please refer to 4-H newsletters each month for scheduling updates.

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

**4-H Gingerbread House Contest**- This was the 1st year for this contest and we had some wonderful entries. The results are:

- **Cloverbud Division (8-under years old):**
  - 1st place- **Bailey Ingle** - **$20 4-H Scholarship**
  - 2nd place- **Jeb and Faith Brookshire** - **$10 4-H Scholarship**

- **Junior Division (9-13 years old):**
  - 1st place- **Alison Keener** - **$20 4-H Scholarship**

**Senior Division (14-18 years old):**

- 1st place- **Courtney Bowman** - **$20 4-H Scholarship**

**2nd place- Faith Wahlers - $10 4-H Scholarship**

**Alexander Livestock 4-H Club**- provided the animals for the Nativity Scenes held at Johnson’s Mill and Stony Point Baptist Church. Our club met on December 7th to get our club scrapbook together and make final plans for our Christmas party.

**Busy Bees 4-H Club**- met for an all day workshop on December 28th at the Extension Office. Brenda & Courtney Bowman instructed us in making a patchwork pocketbook. We all enjoyed having pizza for lunch. We also planned our activity for the fashion/ talent show in the spring. Submitted By: **Miranda Jansen.**

**Cornerstone Clovers 4-H Club**- The Cornerstone Clovers met on December 16 at the Chumley home we made things out of Sculpey Clay and while it baked we snacked on cookies made by Sum- mer. Courtney brought gift bags for all the club members and Jonna brought the hostess a gift bag as well. Everyone got to take home their creations. The next meeting will be held on January 21st. Submitted By: **Summer Chumley.**

**Curious Clovers 4-H Club**- This month Curious Clovers donated food and clothing to the Christian Crisis Center. All of the members helped to put the food on the shelves and made food bags for upcoming ones in need. We then had a fellowship meal at Village Inn. All enjoyed the time we gave to helping others in our community and our pizza lunch.

**Emeralds 4-H Club**- met in December and made ornaments out of candy.

**Handy Dandy 4-H Club**- On December 7, Handy Dandy volunteered at the Toy Store. The Toy Store is held every year in the Taylorsville National Guard Armory. They supply toys at a cheaper price to help families that are in need at the holidays. While we was there, we sorted stocking stuffers and organized items. Submitted By: **Courtney Bowman.**

**Home Grown Hearts 4-H Club**- December meeting was canceled due to SNOW!
Newsletter prepared by:

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