

# Welcome Back to a New 4-H Year!

November, December, 2007 - January 2008

Dear 4-H Families,

Where did the fall go? We have heard many people saying this! It is already the beginning of the holiday season and we want to welcome everyone back for another 4-H year.

Achievement nights are just about complete and many clubs are well underway for the new year!

We want to welcome our new 4-H families. This may be the first newsletter you will be receiving. As someone new to the program, the County 4-H newsletter is the key information piece for your family about County level programs and opportunities and comes to you four times a year. Your local club has other forms of communication that you need to be attentive to as well, such as club newsletters, 4-H calendars, etc. If you are a new family, you should have received your "new family packet" at your achievement night. If you didn't receive one, speak with your organization leader to obtain. If your organization leader is out of supply, please call the 4-H office at 225-5505 or 796-2151.

As the new year begins, it is a good time for youth and their families to sit down and reflect on 4-H experiences this past year. Set as a goal for this year, "Just Say YES to 4-H Opportunities". You will never know where they will take you!

The 4-H monthly meeting serves as the core group experience for

*It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference.*

-- Tom Brokaw

*"Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time."*

-- Marian Wright Edelman

*Imagine what a harmonious world it could be if every single person, both young and old shared a little of what he is good at doing.*

-- Quincy Jones



carrying out 4-H events and programs. Parents are a welcome addition to these meetings to provide support and extra hands to help the leader. 4-H's philosophy is that groups be youth-led with adult support. Some behaviors we expect of youth at a meeting are respect for one another, only one person speaks at a time and is recognized by the President, all ideas are accepted and not judged and there is a group consensus.

It is expected that all present at a 4-H meeting: youth, 4-H volunteers and par-

The True Meaning of  
Service  
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- **Calendar of Events**
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- **2008 Calendar Sign Up**
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- **Debit Cards**

**and MUCH, MUCH, MORE!**

ents, agree to these behaviors in order to have productive meetings.

It is working together in this way that we provide positive role models and positive experiences for youth in our communities.

We look forward to working with all of you this year.

Sincerely,

Nancy Evans  
Program Associate  
4-H Youth Development

Deborah J. Cheever  
Extension Educator  
4-H Youth Development



# Recognition Corner

## NOVEMBER

- 12 4-H Office Closed - Veteran's Day
- 13 MC 4-H Foundation Mtg, 7pm,  
Cty Admin Bldg, Concord
- 14 MC 4-H Advisory Council, 7:30 pm,  
Cty Admin Bldg, Concord
- 15 MC 4-H Horse Leaders mtg, 7pm  
Federal Fish and Wildlife, Horseshoe  
Pond Complex, Concord
- 15 MC Jr. Leaders Meeting, Concord
- 17 "Creating the Magic of 4-H"  
Volunteer training, 8am-4pm,  
Pembroke Academy, Pembroke
- 22 4-H Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 23 4-H Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26 Fair Exhibit Building Meeting
- 28 County Foods Planning Meeting, 7pm,  
Cty Admin Bldg, Concord

## DECEMBER

- 5 Leaders Association Budget Meeting,  
Concord
- 20 MC Jr. Leaders Meeting, Concord
- 25 4-H Office Closed - Christmas Holiday

## JANUARY

- 1 4-H Office Closed - New Year's Day
- 4 Registration due 4-H Food Show/Public  
Speaking
- 9 MC 4-H Foundation, 7pm, Cty Admin Bldg,  
Concord
- 16 MC 4-H Advisory Council, 7:30pm,  
Cty Admin Bldg, Concord
- 17 Merrimack County Jr. Leaders, Concord
- 19 MC 4-H Food Show/Public Speaking Event  
MVHS, Penacook
- 21 4-H Office Closed - Civil Rights Day
- 23 MC 4-H Leader's meeting, 6:00pm,  
Canterbury Parish House, Pot Luck Dinner
- 26 Snow Date Public Speaking/Food Show

## The True Meaning of Service to Others Ruth Kimball Recognized for 65 Years of Service!



Ruth Kimball, who attended Honor's Evening on November 2nd, 2007, was recognized for 65 years of service to the 4-H program. A special proclamation from Governor John Lynch was read.

**WHEREAS**, Ruth Kimball, for the last 65 years, has dedicated her life to over 1,000 youth and families in the Pittsfield area providing 4-H opportunities as the Organization leader of the Pittsfield Victory Workers 4-H club; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth Kimball has been the recipient of many distinguished awards including: National 4-H Alumni award, 1972; Pittsfield Citizen of the Year, 1973; Merrimack County Volunteer of the Year Governors award, 1987, UNH Granite State Award, 1992; J.C. Penny Golden Rule Award, 1999; National 4-H Hall of Fame Award, 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth Kimball was a charter member of the Merrimack County 4-H Foundation and 4-H Advisory Council, was an advisor for the

4-H Youth Extension Club, held office in the County and State 4-H Leaders Associations. She was also active in clearing the ground at Hopkinton Fairgrounds for the first 4-H dormitory, 4-H Kitchen and 4-H Dairy Barn; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth Kimball has been instrumental for 65 years in "mentoring" and inspiring adult volunteers and helping young people develop leadership, citizenship and life skills that will help them reach their fullest potential in becoming engaged, caring, successful citizens, the University of New Hampshire - Merrimack County, 4-H Youth Development program proudly honors Ruth Kimball for her many years of enthusiasm, inspiration and her life-time dedication, at the local, county and state levels, to New Hampshire 4-H Youth Development.

Ruth was also honored by the State and County 4-H Foundation, Merrimack County Junior Leaders and the Merrimack County 4-H Leaders Association.

Congratulations once again to Ruth and the Pittsfield Victory Workers 4-H club!



# Recognition Corner

## HONOR'S EVENING

### 4-H...Just Say YES!"

A special evening was had by all as we celebrated volunteer and youth accomplishments at this years Honors Evening. We thank all of you who were present to celebrate as a 4-H community all that is done collectively for 4-H in Merrimack County. Receiving recognition for their year of service are the following leaders:

#### 3 YEAR LEADERS

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| SARAH CRETE    | JOE DUPONT    |
| R. P. HALE     | TRACY HUCKINS |
| AMY JENKS      | NANCY LADD    |
| BETH MACDONALD | DONNA MINER   |
| LOIS MROZEK    | KEVIN PRINCE  |
| LEONARD RACINE | KEVIN ROWE    |
| KIMBERLY WIECK |               |

#### 5 YEAR LEADERS

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| CONNIE AUDET      | RENE BOLLENGIER    |
| CHRISTINE ELLIOTT | KATHLEEN FINNEMORE |
| BRUCE GREY        | ALVIN JONES        |
| KATE MEEHAN       | DONNA MILLER       |
| FRANK MROZEK      | SARAH STIMPSON     |

#### 10 YEAR LEADERS

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| PEARL AZNIVE  | BOB BATES      |
| PETER ELLIOTT | DEBORAH EVANS  |
| SUSAN JENNA   | AUDREY KNAPP   |
| LISA MASON    | CLAIRE SKLARIN |

#### 15 YEAR LEADERS

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| MICHAEL BLAIS  | SHARON BLAIS  |
| KATHY DOLE     | SUSAN ELLIOTT |
| RICHARD LOUGEE |               |

#### 20 YEAR LEADERS

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| PAMELA WHITE | DAVID ZARGES |
|--------------|--------------|

#### 25 YEAR LEADERS

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| BRIAN STILES  | ROBIN STILES |
| MABEL WHEELER |              |

#### 30 YEAR LEADERS

LETTY BARTON

#### 40 YEAR LEADER

ELEANOR SWINDLEHURST

#### 65 YEAR LEADER

RUTH KIMBALL

Recognition of 5 & 10 year members were also done and the following received these awards this year.

#### 5 YEAR MEMBERS

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| MATTHEW ANDERSON  | NICHOLAS ANDERSON |
| TIMOTHY BARTON    | MOLLY BUTLER      |
| MITCHELL CALL     | DALTON COURSER    |
| JARRED CURRIER    | BEN DAVIS         |
| RICHARD GARCIA    | ROBERT GARCIA     |
| COURTNEY GILMAN   | REBECCA HASHEM    |
| MEGHAN JENKS      | EMILY JENNA       |
| DANIEL KIMBALL    | JESSICA KIMBALL   |
| KAITLIN LEWIS     | EMILY MANN        |
| EMILY MCCORMACK   | CHELSIE MCKERLEY  |
| SARAH NEWTON      | KATELYN ORROK     |
| MADELINE PORCELLA | NICK PORCELLA     |
| SHEP PORCELLA     | SHELBY RIEL       |
| ABIGAIL ROSS      | REBECCA ROSS      |
| BRENDAN ROWE      | NICHOLAS ROWE     |
| MARGARET SCOTT    | CONNOR SMITH      |
| EREN SMITH        | ABIGAIL THORPE    |
| EMILY TYLER       | KARYN VEINOTTE    |
| TIMOTHY VEINOTTE  | MEGHAN WEED       |
| MEGAN WIRTH       |                   |

#### 10 YEAR MEMBERS

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| ALLISON BLAIS  | KATIE BLYE      |
| SOPHIE COURSER | KATIE MANNING   |
| MARISSA RIEL   | SAMANTHA SILVER |

Many other 4-Hers were on hand to receive recognition for their county achievements this past year:

#### COUNTY EVENT WINNERS

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| MATTHEW ANDERSON   | JAMIE AZNIVE     |
| ERICA CLEMONS      | MOLLY DAHL       |
| KATHLEEN DOLE      | CYNDEL DONOGHUE  |
| CHRIS GRAHAM       | REBECCA HASHEM   |
| ELIZA HENLEY       | AMY HOWELL       |
| MEGHAN JENKS       | ABIGAIL JENNA    |
| EMILY JENNA        | JESSICA KIMBALL  |
| SOPHIE LAROCHELLE  | EMILY LAWSON     |
| SARAH MACDONALD    | ALYSSA MAHLSTEDT |
| KASEY MANNING      | KATIE MANNING    |
| KELLY MANNING      | CHELSIE MCKERLEY |
| SEAN MCWILLIAMS    | NATHAN MERROW    |
| KELSEY METCALF     | KLARE NEVINS     |
| ALYSSA ORONOSKI    | EMILY POOLE      |
| AARON PRINCE       | JACKSON RIEL     |
| MARISSA RIEL       | SHELBY RIEL      |
| LYDIA SCOTT        | CAITIE SITTIG    |
| EREN SMITH         | BECKY TOWLE      |
| TIANNA VANDERWOUDE | KARYN VEINOTTE   |

#### COUNTY RECORD WINNERS

Those recognized are 13 years and older

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| MATTHEW ANDERSON  | ERICA CLEMONS    |
| CYNDEL DONAGHUE   | KATHLEEN DOLE    |
| EMILY JENNA       | DANIEL KIMBALL   |
| JESSICA KIMBALL   | JACKSON RIEL     |
| SOPHIE LAROCHELLE | ALYSSA MAHLSTEDT |
| KATIE STASLOVICH  | KARYN VEINOTTE   |

#### COUNTY MEDAL WINNERS

Members who have 2 or more years in a project are encouraged to submit their 4-H record and a project form to be chosen to receive a county project medal.

The following received project medals

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| JAIMEE AZNIVE        | ERICA CLEMONS  |
| KATHLEEN DOLE        | MOLLY DOLE     |
| CYNDEL DONOGHUE      | MEGHAN JENKS   |
| SOPHIE LAROCHELLE    | EMILY LAWSON   |
| CHELSEY MCKERLEY     | KELSEY METCALF |
| JACKSON RIEL         | BECKY TOWLE    |
| CHRISTOPHER VEINOTTE | KARYN VEINOTTE |
| TIMOTHY VEINOTTE     |                |

#### SPECIAL AWARDS RECEIVED AT HONOR'S EVENING

##### I Dare You Award

This is an annual award presented to two teens at Honors Evening. The "I Dare You" Award was first offered in 1914 by William H. Danforth. Mr. Danforth was a successful business man who dared young people to achieve their highest potential and to influence others through lives of leadership and service. This award is to focus on "emerging" leaders ...those young adults who have the qualities and abilities to lead but who may not yet recognize or act on their leadership potential. The award is to recognize 4-H participants who demonstrate personal integrity, lead balanced lives, and possess a willingness to assume responsibility.

This years recipients were:

##### Katie Manning and Carlyn Reep

Both from Canterbury Rascals and members of the Merrimack County Junior Leaders.

##### Alice Thompson Award

This annual award is given at Honor's Evening in the name of Alice Thompson. Alice, the wife of Wilbur Thompson of Canterbury, was active in 4-H work as leader of the Earnest Workers and Canterbury Bells 4-H clubs. Her principal interest was in Home Economics especially sewing, but also foods and nutrition, food preservation, better rooms, crafts and everything connected with the home.

This years recipient was:

##### Kathleen Dole

from the Canterbury Rascals and the Merrimack County Junior Leaders.





# Leader Lines

## Recognition Corner *continued*

### HOPKINTON STATE FAIR

Although the fair is two months behind us, we want to acknowledge the accomplishments of our 4-Hers in the 4-H exhibit building at this year's fair.

#### CLUB EXHIBITS

Congratulations to the following clubs for outstanding club exhibits:

Jumping Jax Alpaca Trax  
Caprine Capers  
Rolling Bones 4-H Dog Club  
Happy Hooves 4-H Club  
Easy Riders 4-H Club  
Warner 4-H Club  
Millville 4-H Club  
Victory Workers 4-H Club  
Merrimack County Sheep Club

#### CREATIVE DESIGN AWARDS

##### From Victory Workers 4-H Club

Jordyn Pinto      Dietrich Mahlstedt  
Daniel Kimball      Shelby Riel  
Peter Barton      Matthew Anderson  
Kaleigh Davis      Marisa Kimball  
Karyn Veinotte      Ross Lougee  
Jessica Kimball

##### From Creative Kids New London

Cindy Clausen

##### From Jumping Jax Alpaca Trax

Alyssa Orrok      Elizabeth Sawyer

##### From Canterbury Rascals 4-H Club

Carlyn Reep

##### From Millville 4-H Club

Meghan Jenks

##### From Earnest Workers

Jaimee Mitchell

##### Independent Member

Julia Jones

#### SPECIAL FOODS AWARD

Ross Lougee      Victory Workers

#### GARDENING AWARDS

Justine Wheeler      Best Garden Collection  
AND      Best Garden Plate

#### FARM-A-RAMA DISPLAYS

Congratulations to clubs who helped promote their club happenings!

Victory Workers  
Rolling Bones  
Millville 4-H  
Creative Crafts for Teens Club  
Merrimack County Sheep Club  
Easy Riders 4-H Club

## Re-Enrollment Forms

Reminder that these are due in order to keep your status active in the 4-H program. If you haven't returned yours, they are past due. Please submit ASAP. Lack of attention to this could result in members and leaders not receiving key information on projects and other deadlines.

## Missing 4-H Record

When Junior Records were sorted this summer, Carly Colby's, didn't show up with Happy Hills club records. Did you find hers in your club's records? If you did, please call the 4-H office. We would like to get it back to her.

## The Best Chocolate Chip Cookies Ever! *A Recipe From the Fair!*

3/4 c granulated sugar  
3/4 c packed brown sugar  
1 cup softened butter  
1 egg  
2 1/4 cups whole wheat flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 package (12 oz) semisweet chocolate chips

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Mix sugars, butter and egg. Stir in flour and baking soda. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop dough by rounded teaspoonfuls about 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 8-10 minutes or until light brown. Cool slightly, remove from cookie sheet.

Makes about 6 dozen cookies.



**ENJOY!**

## Foods Committee Planning Meeting

Join the committee planning this years Food Show on Wednesday, November 28th, 7:00pm at the County Administration Building in Concord.

The group will develop this year's theme and plan the activities for the event. Teens, volunteers, and interested parents are welcome!

Please call the office to let us know you can attend.



# Youth & Teen Opportunities

## WOW Trip

### Wonders of Washington!

Opportunity for New Hampshire 4-H members, 11-15 years of age, as of 7/7/08, as well as screened volunteers who would like to serve as chaperones.

Coos County is offering this opportunity to others in the state who would like this exciting trip to our Nation's Capital during the summer of 2008. This is a trip that promises to be one you will remember for a lifetime.

### What is it?

A 4 1/2 day trip experiencing the city's culture and history.

### It will include:

- Night tour of nation's historic sites.
- Visit to Supreme Court, Library of Congress and the Capital to experience government in action.
- Reflect with FDR on World War II, visit WWII memorials, Navy museum and Arlington Cemetery.
- Visit museums of the Smithsonian Institution, Union Station, Ford's Theatre, National Archives, Holocaust Museum.
- Experience Washington National Cathedral, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and even the National Zoo.

- Stay at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center.

**Cost** - \$800 with a non refundable deposit of \$100.00 due December 3rd, 2007.

There may be possible scholarship help from the Merrimack County 4-H Foundation.

Call the 4-H office for a brochure! For those who attended Citizenship Washington Focus through 4-H, this is similar.

### Cake Decorating Short Course

Are you 10-12 years old? Do you want to learn basic cake decorating techniques as a new project this year?

Joyce Watts of Concord is offering a short course for youth 10-12 years old. There are 4 sessions from 6:30-8:00pm at her Concord home. There is limited enrollment for 8 youth. The skill level is beginner.

Sound like something you want to do?

Call the 4-H office to have your name placed on the list.

### Merrimack Junior Leaders Group

Do you know teens that aren't in 4-H but who would like to join? The Merrimack County 4-H Junior Leaders group is open to **ANY** teen who is the minimum age of 13, (by January 1st), or older. This group focuses on helping teens to build leadership skills, complete meaningful citizenship projects and helps teens build a network of friends separate from those they may have in school. The group also offers teen opportunities such as 4-H teen conference held at UNH, opportunities for special awards and scholarships.

The group meets the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Concord area.

### Dates of upcoming meetings:

**Thursday, November 15th - 6:30 pm**  
West Congregational Church, Concord  
Community Service Project

**Thursday, December 20th - 6:30 pm**  
West Congregational Church, Concord  
Holiday Cultural Diversity Party



# Animal News

## Congratulations to those 4-Hers who received the following awards at this years Hopkinton State Fair.

### 4-H Dairy

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Ruth Kimball Award    | Ryan Morrill  |
| Louie Hodgman Award   | Rob Sykes     |
| Robert McGregor Award | Ben Marston   |
| Fisher Award          | Naomi Fifield |

### 4-H Dairy Goat

Outstanding Dairy Goat Exhibitor Award  
Christian O'Lone

### 4-H Sheep

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Sue McNamara Award    | Amelia Moore  |
| Jeanne Sherman Junior | Molly Butler  |
| Jeanne Sherman Senior | Russell Mason |

### 4-H Working Steer

#### Teamster Awards

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Junior              | Dalton Courser      |
| Intermediate        | Nick Rowe           |
| Senior              | Sophie Courser      |
| George Cilley Award | Charlie St. Jacques |

### 4-H Swine

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Market Hog Award       | Raymond Abair |
| Best Education Display | Amy Lucas     |

### 4-H Horse

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| High Point Overall Scores |                |
| Senior/Junior             | Jocelyn Tanner |
| Walk/Trot                 | Danyelle Davis |



## 2008 Calendar Dates for 4-H Animal Science Programs

### February

|    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 7  | State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl        |
| 9  | State 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl        |
| 23 | State 4-H Horse Advisory Council |

### April

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | 4-H Horse approval form deadline for Horses qualifying for ESE |
| 5 | State 4-H Horse Judging/Hippology Contest                      |

### May

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1   | 4-H approval form deadline for llamas, dogs, working steers, dairy cattle, beef, heifers going to ESE and horses not going to ESE |
| 3-4 | 4-H Dairy Judging Contest   |
| 31  | State Activities Day  |

**June 15** - Approval forms due for all swine, sheep, goats, small animals and beef not going to ESE

**July 18-20** - State 4-H Horse Show

**August 5-6** - State Dairy Show (tentative)



# General 4-H News

Thank You!  
Thank You!  
Thank You!

With over 400 people who helped in some way conduct the fair or to build our resource base for the year, it is impossible to name each and every one of you by name. We just want you to know that we truly appreciate any and all help that was given during the fair.

We had volunteers who cooked chicken, served dinners, scooped ice cream, served 4-H breakfasts, sold hot dogs & hamburgers, cooked over the grill, (which at times was a very hot job!), served as superintendents, watched over the 4-H Exhibit Building or took their day to judge 4-H exhibits.

It takes a tremendous effort by all pulling together as a TEAM to make it all happen.

Be proud if you were one who helped because you exemplified the 4-H motto...

**“To Make the Best Better!”**

## The Fair is Over...but the year continues!

Whew!!! 4-H exhibits are finished! Projects are finished and ribbons have been distributed. Many times we consider the 4-H year finished at this point. However, some of the best learning can take place after the 4-H exhibits are past and the fair is over.

4-H claims “experiential learning as its cornerstone in education”. Many volunteers are incorporating experiential learning techniques into the work that they do with 4-Hers all the time.

Experiential learning includes the things that we “do” with kids...but it goes beyond the doing to actually talking about the things that were done!

What did we do? Why did we do it? How is it important? When will I do that again in life? What went well? What needs to be changed?

When we think about the 4-H year, we need to make that experiential too! Now, it is important to STOP and look back at the entire year. Help members to talk and think about the things that they have done and accomplished. If they were to write about their 4-H years, what would their story tell?

Help them understand the importance of the things they have learned and how they can apply these new skills to new situations in their lives. This is what the experiential model is all about.

### Questions you might use to encourage discussion:

- What are some of the things we did this year?
- What are some new things that you learned this year?
- How did our group work well together this year?
- What did you learn about yourself during the year?
- What made this year a good year?
- How will things learned this year help you?
- What did you learn that will help you in the future?
- How could the skills you practiced help you in other ways?

The end of the year is an important time for 4-H members to bring closure for the past year and excitement for a new year.

As you start the new year, 4-H Achievement Nights can be used to celebrate accomplishments and goal attainment by members where everyone can be highlighted or recognized. Recognition is important to youth and this is one form of recognition for members.

Use your achievement night to challenge and inspire your members to reach greater heights in their personal growth and in their commitment to the 4-H organization for this next year. Challenge each 4-Her to get one new member for your club. Boy, how our numbers could grow.

As our 4-H motto says,  
**“Make the Best Better!”**



# General 4-H News

## Time for HANDBOOK Review

Yes! The fair is over and it is 9 months until next year's fair.

Now is the time we have to review and begin preparing for changes in fair classes for the Exhibit Hall for the 4-H exhibitors handbook for 2008.

It has been a few years since we have reviewed our 4-H classes and projects that we offer to 4-H members to exhibit in. I would like to have a meeting to hear volunteers suggestions, concerns and ideas for new classes.

I would like anyone who judged to attend to provide input. Please call the 4-H office to let me know if you will be coming.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26th**  
**7pm at the County Administration Building in Concord.**

Our motto; "MAKE THE BEST BETTER" is our charge for this task.

## Winter Weather

We are approaching that time of year when winter weather could be upon us. We do try to be mindful of weather when holding our meetings. We ask for pre-sign ups for committee meetings, events, etc and do so for a reason. If we need to cancel or reschedule we will only contact those people who we have heard from.

Please give us the courtesy of letting us know you will be coming. We want to be considerate of the safety for all.

In the same vein of this, please let the 4-H office know if you have changed your address, phone number and even your e-mail address. This will help immensely with the ease of contacting you if the need arises.

## Publicizing 4-H in Your Community

We want to remind clubs that getting the word out about what 4-H is doing in your community is very important! We would like to remind clubs that each community has access to their town crier through the Concord Monitor. You can locate your local representative by checking the Sunday Concord Monitor. Many of them accept information through e-mail which makes it very easy to get information to them.

Not only do we look forward to reading about your club, our County Legislative Representatives, who oversee our budget, keep abreast of 4-H happenings as well. Our office checks the Concord Monitor daily...so don't let your club go unnoticed. Use this resource!



## Leader Training Information at Home

Do you have a new leader who wants to learn more about 4-H? Are you a new leader who wants to know more? We have a series of tapes and leader letters for you to borrow and review. The topics covered include:

- What is 4-H?
- Starting a 4-H Group or Club
- Planning & Conducting a 4-H Club Meeting
- Leadership & Teaching Techniques

Newsletters are short with great tips! Some could be pieces to share with parents and leaders in your club. Call and request these materials today!

## Volunteer Hours Needed

How many hours do 4-H volunteers in Merrimack County contribute to helping to plan, implement, and deliver the 4-H program? In tallying up year end summary report information provided by 4-H organization leaders, screened volunteers totaled 14,659 volunteer hours and 2,401 volunteer hours were given by other volunteers, those who help us in other ways at the club and county level. With the new year starting, just a reminder to organization leaders to have your volunteers - project, one-time volunteers and others who contribute to your club, document volunteer hours they give to your club. The support we get throughout the county on behalf of 4-H is impressive!

Cast a wider net this year! Invite new volunteers into your club and reach new heights with your 4-H club.

## Club Officers and Record Keeping

Congratulations to all newly installed club officers! Please support your organization leader and club officers by being supportive and volunteering to help out. Each club needs everyone to make the club a success.

Club officers need to keep accurate, written secretary and treasurers reports of each meeting. These need to be kept as a part of permanent records of each club and be shared at each meeting. The president needs to run the meeting with the leader's support. Each meeting should have a business meeting component if needed, but should also include an educational segment and be fun! Let's plan together for a wonderful new 4-H year. Community Club accounts need to be kept low. Clubs should not be keeping large fund balance from one year to another. Funds should only be raised with a specific reason or club goal in mind.

### Contact Information

Office Hours: M - F, 8am - 4pm

Telephone: 225-5505 or 796-2151

Ext: Deb-318, Nancy-317, Lynn-312

Fax: 792-2271

E-mail: [deborah.cheever@unh.edu](mailto:deborah.cheever@unh.edu)

[nancy.evans@unh.edu](mailto:nancy.evans@unh.edu)

[lynn.roy@unh.edu](mailto:lynn.roy@unh.edu)



# General 4-H Information

## 4-H Open to All

As we begin a new 4-H year, we want to remind clubs that 4-H is open to all youth regardless of age, color, handicap, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. We need to be sure youth and families in our communities know there is 4-H and be able to easily access involvement. We need to be sure we are providing opportunities to ALL on a nondiscriminatory basis.

## Insurance Reminder

Is your club taking out accident insurance for the year? This is really important as it covers your members at and during a 4-H project and/or monthly meetings. It only cost \$1.00 per member/ per leader for a full year. (\$2.00 for horse clubs)

We strongly recommend all clubs do this and cover all of their leaders and members!

## Following is the website for an on-line form:

<http://www.americanincomelife.com/4h2.htm>

## For Special Events

Once you fill out the form, print out and keep in a safe place. Once the 4-H event is complete, send this form in with payment.

Yearly insurance needs to be pre-paid.

If you do not have access to a computer or printer, call the 4-H office and we will provide you with the form.

## 2008 Calendar Sign Up

In order to use the resources of the Leaders Association wisely, we need to know from clubs how many calendars you will need for this year.

Organization Leaders will be receiving a sign up sheet for those families wishing to receive our 2008 4-H Calendar. There will be a deadline to sign up. Please be sure you let your organization leader know you are interested. This calendar is intended to be used as a planning tool by 4-H clubs. It helps families to know of deadlines and preparation schedules for 4-H activities and events.

## COUNTY CLUBS

We have great opportunities for animal science members here in Merrimack County for specific subject matter - county wide! The following Merrimack County Clubs are available to youth.

| <b>Clubs</b>             | <b>Contact Person</b> | <b>Phone</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Sheep Club               | Wendy Dailey          | 774-5317     |
| Ox Bows                  | Bob Pearson           | 648-2424     |
| Dog Club                 | Sarah Gardner         | 435-7440     |
| Caprine Capers Goat Club | Melody Prince         | 753-8203     |
| Swine Club               | Linda Lucas           | 768-5505     |
| Dairy Club               | Beth Silver           | 648-2210     |
| Jumping Jax Alpaca Trax  | Mike McManus          | 781-3741     |

If you have an interest in any of these clubs, or would like to get involved in these project areas, give the leaders a call and see how you can become involved

County events help reinforce life skills (goal setting, communication, etc) Be sure you take part in at least one County Event.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING/FOOD SHOW: Pembroke Academy PRESENTATION DAY: Merrimack Valley High School

|                          | <u>Public Speaking</u> | <u>Food Show</u>     | <u>Presentation Day*</u>   |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--|
|                          |                        |                      | *Demonstrations * Photography<br>* Action Exhibits * Poster Exhibits   |
| <b>Date of event</b>     | January 19th           | January 19th         | March 8th  |
| <b>Snow Date</b>         | January 26th           | January 26th         | March 15th   |
| <b>Registration</b>      | 9:00am                 | 9:30am               | 8:30am   |
| <b>Event begins</b>      | 9:15am                 | 10:00am - noon       | 9:00am   |
| <b>Place</b>             | Pembroke               | Pembroke             | Merrimack Valley   |
| <b>Who can take part</b> | Juniors 8-13           | Food Project Members | All 4-H Members  |
| <b>Register by</b>       | Seniors 14 and up      | 8-18 years old       | 8-18 years old   |
|                          | Friday                 | Friday               | Wednesday  |
|                          | January 4th            | January 4th          | February 15th  |
| <b>Volunteers Needed</b> |                        |                      |  |
|                          | 8 Judges               | Minimum of 20 Judges | Approximately 40<br>4 Scorekeepers<br>and<br>Assistant Judges<br>12 Judges for Demo<br>6-8 Scorekeepers<br>3-4 Room Chair<br>people<br>4 Action Exhibit<br>Judges<br>6-8 Rm Chairperson<br>3-4 Photo Judges<br>6-8 Door Proctors<br>4-6 Poster Judges- |

## COUNTY EVENT SCHEDULE 2008

### MEMBERS:

To sign up for any of these events, contact your ORGANIZATION LEADER!

\* Speeches, Demonstrations, Action Exhibits are not to be repeated from a previous year. Members should be using the 4-H materials to get ready for these events.

Call the 4-H office to get the materials for your members!

**FASHION REVUE JUDGING: Saturday, April 12th, Epsom Central**

**FASHION REVUE: Friday, May 2nd, Epsom Central**



# Youth Opportunities



## MINIMUM GUIDELINES - 4-H MEMBERSHIP

As we begin the new year, guidelines are to be followed for 4-H membership. Please review below:

It is important to understand that enrolled 4-H members receive a membership card and awards for completion of a year.

For members 8-18:

- Members must officially enroll, annually, in a project with UNH Cooperative Extension and:
- Determine, (set), project goals/objectives. NOTE: Goal setting materials are available for members and leaders. Call the 4-H office.
- Participate in 4-H activities and programs.
- Verify work toward project objectives through documentation by your leader, supervisor or family club leader, (4-H records serve as a good tool to accomplish this).

To receive the greatest benefit, members are encouraged to:

- Participate in at least one of the following, per year: - a community service project, citizenship project, safety project, health project, or communication project.
- Participate in at least two different, (county or higher level), activities each year.
- Exhibiting at Hopkinton Fair, by all members, is an expectation. We rely on parents to help members carry this out.

Those members who do not complete these guidelines will not be awarded completion pins or seals and may not be eligible for County or State events.

## Debit Cards...Do you understand how they work?

Many teens today may be opting for using a debit card instead of the traditional approach of the past...checks and a check book. With access to accounts electronically, why would you need to keep a checkbook? Debit cards are seen as a good thing because they are a way to spend only money that you have, unlike a credit card where you are spending money that you don't have.

Teens and others need to be cautioned about how debit cards really work. Did you know that if you don't have enough money in an account to cover a debit card purchase, (including ATM transactions), you probably won't be denied the funds you are looking to use.

People may opt for debit cards so over-drawing on an account may be avoided. In a recent study it was found that banks will allow the transaction to go through. What has been found is that the number one cause of overdrafts to accounts is DEBIT CARD PURCHASES.

**Did you know?** The overdraft protection ("bounce protection") programs you may get when opening an account are actually a finance charge for a loan and are very costly!

In 2005, the Center for Responsible Lending found checking account holders have paid more than 10.3 billion dollars in overdraft fees and the biggest culprit was debit cards.

In the past decade debit card use purchases has grown at an explosive 20% per year. It is likely to continue .

The bottom line is that teens who are targeted for debit cards and charge cards need to be taught to monitor their transactions and maintain a check register so that when money is withdrawn or "used" it is accounted for immediately and not 2 days later when it is withdrawn from the account by the bank. The individual may make several more purchases thinking they had the available funds. Timing of withdrawal of the funds from the account may vary by when the business submits for the payment or the bank withdraws the funds. Funds sometimes come out immediately, but if the card is used as "credit", which many cards are, it could be a couple of days before funds have cleared from the account.

**BEWARE!** Remember...accurate record keeping is key! Debit cards are a convenience, so use them wisely!

# 2008 NORTHEAST LEADER FORUM

We are less than a year away from this VERY LARGE state event. Some volunteers have been meeting for the last year and a half. They are coming into the final months where things need to come together. More volunteers are needed to get everything done. Committee members are needed. See Contact list. The dates for the forum are October 23rd - 26th. The place is the Center of NH in Manchester.

## County Fair Forum

This will showcase the best of New Hampshire 4-H. They will be looking for "Make It, Take It" exhibits, demonstrations, action exhibits and anything to do with fairs. We will be on the lookout for these at Presentation Day.

They are also looking for teens to be involved with the forum. If you want to volunteer, contact one of the committee chairs.

## Request from the Hospitality Committee.

### County Fair

15 Volunteers needed

Thursday, 1-7pm

### Pumpkins for Keene Pumpkin Fest

They need 50 from each county. This would make a great 4-H project over the summer. Volunteers needed to help man the pumpkin carving area. 3-4 people for Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 4-6 hour shifts.

## Welcome Committee

4 Volunteers to assist with this

## Table Favors

50 NH Wooden Weather Predictors

Direction: Call the 4-H office

## Recycled Items Needed

- 200 -Screw-on Soda or Juice Caps
- Orange & green ribbon pieces at least 5 inches long. Width doesn't matter
- 500 Felt or Plush Felt, 4x6 pieces. All colors except white or off white.
- 750 pieces Warm & Natural scraps
- 900 pieces - old puzzle pieces 2x4 inches wide, no wooden backs
- Buttons of all shapes, colors and sized under 1 inch. Cut them off of your clothing when they become rags.

## CONTACT LIST

Hospitality: Pam Clattenburg [pjdpic@aol.com](mailto:pjdpic@aol.com)

Registrations: Lorna Bates [ljbates55@hotmail.com](mailto:ljbates55@hotmail.com)

Promotions: Barbara Gaskell [barbarag@premierprintingnh.com](mailto:barbarag@premierprintingnh.com)

Workshops: Elaine Lamothe [elamothe@comcast.net](mailto:elamothe@comcast.net)

Tours: Lucy Rhodes Chair [nhskins@comcast.net](mailto:nhskins@comcast.net)

Speaker/Enter. Chris Bozak

If you have any of these items, please call Pam Clattenburg at 269-7291 or email [pjdpic@aol.com](mailto:pjdpic@aol.com)