

Cheshire County 4-H Awards Dinner

The 2019 Cheshire County 4-H Annual Awards Dinner was recently held at the Walpole Town Hall. The dinner was hosted by the Pinnacleview 4-H Club of Walpole. This event is held to celebrate the achievements of 4-H leaders and members.

4-H members were recognized for attending State, Regional and National events, as well as being recognized for outstanding records and achievements. Leaders were recognized for years of service in the 4-H program. County medals and certificates of continued achievement were awarded to youth who have been involved in a specific project area for at least two years and had submitted a 4-H record or resume. Receiving recognition were Serena Rathke and Daniela Rathke, Alstead, for the Horse project, Sage Stark, Charlestown, and Haley Christie, Langdon, for Community Service, Andrea Majewski, Westmoreland, and Chelsey Patch, Walpole, for Achievement.



The following leaders were recognized for years of service:

5 Years: Kate Thomas-Bits & Bridles, Sandy Rathke-Colts & Fillies, Sadie Halliday, Judy and Lee Sawyer-Monadnock Mountaineers

10 Years: Diana Stetson-Minis Too!, Rebecca Kennedy-Colts & Fillies, Daleen Clark-Furry Friends

15 Years: Sarah Vogel-Top Dogs, Donna Gawron-Tail Blazers

20 Years: Shelley Coombs-Cows R Us

25 Years: Jessica Putnam-Colts & Fillies

35 Years: Nancy Clem-Furry Friends, Marilyn Worcester-Sunbeam

Hannah Stetson of Westmoreland, and a member of Minis Too! 4-H Club, along with Daniela Rathke of Alstead and a member of the Colts & Fillies 4-H Club received the Bob and Jean Williams Award. This award is given to junior members who show outstanding 4-H service in the areas of achievement, leadership, and citizenship.

The 4-H Family of the Year was awarded to Zach and Diana Stetson, and their children- Marisa and Hannah. This family from Westmoreland was recognized for their years of involvement in the





horse project. Both parents are 4-H alumni, both have worked enormous hours in the food booth, as a shift supervisor and during the rebuild of the food booth this year. The family is very active in quiz bowl, judging and hippology and at state events.

The Club of the Year was awarded to the Colts & Fillies 4-H Club of Alstead. This club has been in existence for 53 years and carry projects in horse, rabbits, community service, and leadership. The members have participated at 4-H Day, State Activities Day, Eastern State Expo, Horse Quiz Bowl, Judging and Hippology. The members have worked on several community service and promotional activities. In addition to having fun and learning, the members and leaders of this club make a difference every day to the people

around them and have made their community a better place to live.

The 4-H Member of the Year award was presented to Margaret Thomas, of Spofford, a member for 10 years in horse, community service and leadership projects. Margaret is committed to 4-H in many capacities and has helped to shape the programs she has been involved with. She was selected to attend every National 4-H trip including: National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress, and the American Youth Horse Council Symposium. She was also a member of the NH Horse Quiz Bowl team that competed in the National contest in Louisville KY. This year she is a member of the NH Horse Communications Team.



Ken Christie of Langdon and a leader of Pinnacleview 4-H club was named 4-H Volunteer of the Year. Ken has been very involved in 4-H as a parent and as a volunteer. He takes time out of his busy schedule each September to haul all the 4-H Dairy backboards down to the Big E and helps set up the NH 4-H Dairy display each year. He has also been a chaperon there for many years. Ken has helped many members build their own wood show boxes (18!). You'll also find him carving turkey for the 4-H Awards Dinner. He is always willing to go the extra mile to help the youth achieve their goal no matter whose club they are in.

Crystal Phillips of Walpole was the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. Crystal was a member of Pinnacleview 4-H as a youth and now a volunteer for 30 years for the club. Growing up on a dairy farm and showing dairy cows from her family farm, she has experienced most of what 4-H has to offer. As a youth, she attended many national events. She now encourages the members of her club to apply for these national trips and work hard on the local and state level to do well. As an active member of the community, she is the connection for the community service her club participates in. Her children have aged out and she "still gives her all." She still chaperones the NH 4-H dairy team at the Big E, attends dairy shows and organizes many clinics. One of her attributes is organizing the leases of calves and heifers from her family farm.

The awards program was presented by Andrea Chickering Sawyer, UNH Cooperative Extension 4-H. Katherine Thomas, of Spofford, a member of the New Hampshire 4-H Foundation assisted in the presentation of the Volunteer Service Awards.

