Leader News

Reminder! Enrollment Deadline

January 31, 2016 is the enrollment deadline. The cost of enrollment will be $18.00 for state fees (a $36 cap per family of two or more) and $11/regular county project fees; $12/horse members, this includes insurance. After January 31, the state fees go up to $23 per child in a family. Enrollment deadline for county membership is April 1, 2016. After this date we purge our newsletter mailing list.

Approval from the 4-H Leader

Just a reminder that all member enrollment forms must be signed by the club 4-H leader before being accepted at the Extension Office. This way we support our leaders in knowing who is in their club. Thanks

Club attendance and participation

Each club leader can set club guidelines regarding attendance and participation for their club members. If your family schedule is such that you just can’t meet the requirements of the club, that’s OK, we’ll help you find another club in which you can meet the club guidelines. Everyone wants your kids to have a positive 4-H experience.

4-H membership

4-H, being part of the OSU Extension Service, is under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Therefore 4-H is open to all youth, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or marital/parental status. Members need to read the Code of Conduct they sign because we expect them to adhere to the rules and behaviors associated with 4-H activities and events. For the protection of our youth, leaders are not to make available to individuals, organizations, or businesses outside of OSU a roster containing contact information of our youth members.

Speaking of our youth members, the eligibility to join 4-H has changed. Eligibility has been based on grade for many years and now that has changed to age eligibility. See the chart below.

Age Divisions

Oregon 4-H uses the following age divisions for eligibility in competitive events beginning October 1, 2015:

- **Juniors** - 9-11 years of age on September 1, 2015
- **Intermediates** - 12-14 years of age on September 1, 2015
- **Seniors** - 15-19 years of age on September 1, 2015
- **Cloverbuds** - 5-8 years of age on September 1, 2015 participate in noncompetitive events

*Contact your 4-H Leader to re-enroll for the 2015-2016 4-H year or stop by the Extension office.*
2016 Fair Theme:

This year’s Fair theme is: Blue Jeans N’ Country Scenes. 4-H/FFA clubs start thinking about how you can come up with a creative way to decorate your booth and stalls.

Beef Superintendents Needed

Please consider volunteering to be a Beef Superintendent. We do not have anyone for this upcoming year. It is easier if there are two people involved with the job. Some of the duties of a Superintendent are:

- Help clean/setup beef barn on our work day
- Assign clubs to the pens from the Pen Request Spreadsheet
- Help supervise weigh-in of market animals
- Help determine the number of exhibitors to show per market class
- Facilitate the classes themselves, i.e. line up for each class
- Select a clerk who will record results in the clerk book
- Attend morning leader meeting
- Communicate with the judge on how classes flow and our procedures
- Assist Sale Committee members with sorting market animals into buyer groups and loading

When I have observed our Superintendents over the years it seems to me that the position needs someone who can multi-task (understatement for sure!), has patience with youth and adults and a great sense of humor!

Poultry Superintend Needed

Also, consider volunteering to be a Poultry Superintendent. We do not have anyone for this upcoming year. This person will help co-superintend the small animal barn with the rabbit superintendent Tami Foltz. Some of the duties of a Superintendent are:

- Help setup small animal cages on our work day
- Assign clubs to the pens from the Pen Request Spreadsheet
- Facilitate the classes themselves, i.e. line up for each class
- Select a clerk who will record results in the clerk book
- Attend morning leader meeting
- Communicate with the judge on how classes flow and our procedures

Insurance and Coverage at 4-H Events

Leaders and members are all covered by accident insurance, leaders are also covered with liability coverage from OSU. Remember, there is a “time frame” of this coverage, and that is 24 hours from the time of an accident. Most accidents that are not reported within the 24 hour time frame will not be covered by insurance.

So we need you to report any accident as soon as it happens. Even if the person seems to be unhurt or “shrugs” off the incident, it needs to be reported.

Fundraising Reports

All clubs are REQUIRED to submit an application to fundraise before the activity is scheduled. A Fundraising Proposal Form needs to be submitted and approved in order for the liability insurance to be available to the clubs participating in the event/activity. We need to know what and how money is being raised in the name of 4-H and have record with this paper trail. Forms are available in the extension office.
4-H Scholarship Opportunities

Applications for OSU scholarships must be accompanied by a brief essay, a copy of high school grades, a copy of official SAT or ACT scores. More information is available at http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/state-4h-scholarships. Applications are due in this office by February 15, 2016.

4-H members interested in applying for Oregon 4-H scholarships should contact the county agent during their junior year of high school for information.

Baker County 4-H Association Scholarship/Cockram Scholarship

You might consider applying for the 4-H Association and the Cockram memorial Scholarships, which are both available for 4-H youth. Each one is worth $500 and the application deadline for each is April 15, 2016. Sounds like a long ways off, but you know how busy you get between now and spring break!

The 4-H Association scholarship is based on the time, work and involvement you have done in 4-H; the Cockram Scholarship is for both 4-H and FFA youth. Assoc. scholarship is for a 4-H member. Applications are in the Extension office.

2016 Bee Essay Contest

The 4-H Beekeeping Essay is a great opportunity for 4-H members to research and write about honey bees. Cash prizes of $750, $500, and $250 will be awarded to the three top National winners. 4-H members can also use the information they gather to make an educational display for the fair. Essay contestants are not required to be enrolled in a 4-H beekeeping project. “Bees and Pollination. How Important is it?” is the topic for the 2016 essay contest.

To learn more about contest details contact the extension office. Please encourage your 4-H members to submit an essay! Essays due in State office by February 10, 2016.

EOLR-GB Training and the Leadership Retreat

Boston Colton & Melissa Foltz volunteered to be our Governing Board representatives for the Eastern Oregon Leadership Retreat. Our leadership training is January 17-18, 2016, Martin Luther King weekend where the GB members set the theme, leadership classes, and free time activities for the retreat itself.

The EOLR retreat will be a road trip to OMSI in Portland, OR; making some stops along the way this year on April 22-24, 2016. This is a great way to meet 4-H’ers from 8th to 12th grades. You’ll start seeing these same youth at “Livestock Show”, “County Fair”, “Summer Conference”, “Summer Camp” so sign up and meet the future new friends in your life. Registration forms will be in the February newsletter.

EOLS Allied Beef & Rate of Gain Contest

January 10, 2016 is the official date for weighing your market steer if you want to compete in the allied Beef Industry Award and Fastest Gaining Steer contest at Eastern Oregon Livestock Show. You can weigh in on January 10, 2016 at Intermountain Livestock sale Yard in La Grande between 1 pm—2 pm.
If you choose to have your steer weighed here in Baker City, the steers must be weighed between January 3-17, 2016. Call the office to schedule an appointment with Jayne.

If you do NOT want to be in the contest, but want to participate in EOLS in Union you must have possession of the animal before February 6, 2015.

The official weigh-in day at EOLS is June 8, 2016. Weight on steers for the show is 1,000-1,530 lbs. You will only get paid up to 1450 lbs.

You will need to read the premium book, which can be found at [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/4-H/index.php](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/4-H/index.php).

### EOLS Possession Date’s 2016:

- **Beef**—February 6
- **Lambs**—April 10
- **Hogs**—April 10
- **Goats**—April 10

### Baker County Fair Market Steer Policy

At the time of pre-weigh-in/tagging (mid-February) of market steers a **completed e-slip**, per animal, **MUST** be presented to the clerk in order to weigh and tag the animal. We will record the e-slip number next to your animals ear tag number to confirm possession date of each animal. E-slips are now available for purchase at the Extension office for $2.50 each. **Remember, all market steers must be tagged & weighed by March 1, 2016.**

### Steer Tagging & Weighing Dates Set

- **North Powder Area**: Feb. 18th 4 pm @ Hufford’s Scale
- **Durkee, Richland, Halfway, Keating, Unity**: Feb. 18 & 19. Must call the office for a time and place to weigh.

### Baker County Fair Possession Date’s

- **Beef**—March 1
- **Lambs**—June 1
- **Hogs**—June 1
- **Goats**—June 1

Market rabbits and poultry will not be tagged but need to have possession of the animal by:
- **Poultry**—8 weeks prior to show; rabbits—90 days old at time of weigh-in

**Note:** having your animal tagged does not mean you are automatically enrolled in 4-H or registered to participate in the county fair.

### Market Health Forms – get them now!

Remember to get your Oregon 4-H Market Animal health forms for Beef, Sheep, Goats, and Swine. These forms are required for market animal exhibitors to show at County Fair. Start working on them now, because the records require information about early vaccinations and feed. You can get copies at the Extension office or download them from our website.

### Horse Project - Required Forms

**Don’t forget** about these important Forms that require parent/member, leader and 4-H agent signatures: **Annual horse lease agreement and annual horse project declaration forms.** Both must be signed by all by May 1st.
Meating the Grade with Your Livestock

Leticia Henderson
Baker/Union County Livestock Extension Agent

Why do judges look for certain characteristics in the show ring? The criteria a judge uses to place livestock are designed to reflect the final product: a high quality carcass. Whether your animal be steer, lamb, swine, or goat, most of your project goals should be based around your ability to show the technical skill you have learned to raise a meat animal. A lot goes into raising an animal that meets these high standards.

The first step is to select the right animal. Before going out and selecting your project animals, do some background work. You might want to consider specific breeds that you prefer to raise. While no single breed is superior in the show ring, you need to understand how breed influences an animal’s ability to muscle, deposit fat, and the care and handling required to raise that animal. Another important criteria you need to notice is frame and structure. While your job is to feed and exercise the animal to get the proper weight gain, muscling, and fat cover, it always helps to start with an animal that is capable of reaching those goals. Visit with your parents and 4-H club leader to make sure you know what characteristics you need to look for when selecting your project animal.

Once you have the animal home, it is important to create the right environment that promotes healthy growth and weight gain. The basics include providing clean water, dry bedding, and a low stress environment. Animals under stress will not gain the needed amount of weight. The final component to raising livestock is proper nutrition. I encourage you to learn the nutritional requirements for your livestock, get them on a feeding program, and regularly check their progress.

To get a start on the right nutrition, determine what the average daily weight gain of your animal needs to be. To do this, take the current weight and subtract it from the target weigh-in weight. You should consult your parents or 4-H club leader to determine what the target show weight for you animal is. For example, if you have a 700 lb steer with a target weight of 1100 lbs, your steer needs to gain 400 pounds. Then, divide the weight gain by the amount of time you have to put that weight on your animal. If there are 215 days until fair, you would take 400 ÷ 215 for an average daily weight gain of 1.9 lbs/day.

There are several resources available to help you make that target weight gain. Remember, it’s a lot easier to hold an animal’s weight than it is to push a large amount of weight gain in the last month before fair. Planning a feeding schedule out is essential to keep your animal on track. If there is any help I can provide, please call me at the office 523-6418. Good luck!

Scales at Baker Co. Fairgrounds

Reminder! The scales located on the Baker County Fairgrounds are open to all clubs and exhibitors to use. There are two scales, one for beef and the other for swine, sheep and goats. Just call the Extension office to reserve the scales at 541-523-6418.
Market animal producer list
Calendar of Events

January 2016

1  Office Closed Holiday
17-18 EOLR-Governing Board Training-John Day

February

9  EOLS Market Steer Possession Date
10  Bee Essay Contest Due
15  State 4-H Scholarships Due to Ext. Office
20  Tag/Weigh Baker Area Market Steers: 9-10 am Bootsma Feedlot
TBA  2nd Association meeting

March

1  BCF Mkt Steer Possession Date
14-18 4-H Staff Spring Conference– Portland
20-23 Experience Citizenship –Salem

April

1  County Enrollment Deadline
10  Experienced Camp Counselor Training
11  EOLS Possession for Lambs, Hogs, Goats
15  Leaders Assoc. & Cockram Scholarship Due
22-24 EOLR
29-30 Horse Classic

May

1  Horse Classic
1  Horse Lease/Declaration Forms Due
3-4  Field to Fork: Baker Co. Fairgrounds
9  Camp Counselor Training - All youth required
10  EOLS Entries Due
16-31 Tri-County Camp: Early bird registrations
21  Tag/Weigh Sheep/Swine/Goats: 9-10:30 am
28  Wacky Ribbon Horse Show - Baker Co. Fairgrounds arena
30  Memorial Day: Office Closed

June

1  BCF Possession Date for Mkt Swine/Sheep/Goats Must be tagged prior to date.
4  EOLS Clean up day: 9am—Noon
5  EOLS Check-in Horse Exhibitors
6-7  EOLS Horse Show
8  EOLS Market weigh-in
9-10  EOLS Conformation/Showmanship
11  EOLS Market Auction
20-21 Camp Counselor Overnight: Required
20-22 State Shooting Sports Contest
22-25 Summer Conference: Corvallis
TBA 4-H Foods Contest
TBA 4-H Presentations Contest

July

4  Independence Day: Office Closed
11-15 Tri-County 4-H Camp
15  Baker Co. Fair 4-H/FFA Entries Due
22 4-H Record Books Due: 5 pm Ext. Office
30  BCF Open Horse Show - Arena

August

TBA  Home Grown Market Lamb Interview
5-6  BCF 4-H Horse Show
8-9  BCF Exhibit Hall: Exhibits judged
10  BCF Weigh-in Day
11-12 BCF Sm. Animal/Livestock Showing
13  BCF Market Auction
17  4-H State Exhibits due for State Fair
17  Post Fair Meeting
21  4-H Food Exhibits due for State Fair
22  Take 4-H State Fair Exhibits to Salem
26-31 State Fair: Salem

September

1-5  State Fair: Salem
5  Labor Day: Office Closed