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MONITOR

Oregon State University
Coos County Extension Office

290 N Central Coquille OR 97423

Phone: 396-3121x240 or 756-2020x240 FAX: 396-2690

Email: joann.mast@orst.edu

Website: <http://osu.orst.edu/extension/coos>

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Coos County 4-H Finishes Strong in 2002

4-H enrollment continues to be steady in Coos County, with 1,369 youth served in the total program. The total program includes project clubs, community clubs, special interest projects, day camps and school enrichment activities led by classroom teachers. Of the total, 541 youth were enrolled in project clubs.

One of the highlights was the number of graduating seniors who were enrolled in 4-H clubs. 28 students in the twelfth grade were enrolled in project clubs. This is a very high percentage of the total enrollment, and an indicator that older youth are being served in our county program and that they find worthwhile activities being offered. It may be the club members, the club leader, or the results of special projects that keep them involved. The animal auction is an attraction for some, just as camp counseling is for others. Regardless of the reason, it is great to see so many 4-H'ers stay with the program through the senior level.



Welcome Back

Members and leaders reading this edition of the Monitor are true supporters of the 4-H program. This edition reflects the new membership, those who have completed forms and paid fees in order to keep the newsletter coming. Now, if only the newsletter were on time!

I tried to set priorities and get it in the mail sooner, but annual reports and side trips out of the office kept me from my task. I hope to get it all back together soon and be able to keep my deadlines and not keep you from your reading.

I hope this finds you well and eager to dive into many 4-H events. If your club is not keeping you busy enough, check out the options in the newsletter. If there are specific things you would like to learn or do, send the information to a leaders meeting or attend the monthly junior leaders meeting and get the project started.

Junior Leaders Plan First Event, Meet To Set Future Goals

The county junior leader club planned and carried out their first event of the year on December 17. The first stop was pizza at Molly's and then it was off to the Pottery Company for painting and lots of conversation. A gift exchange with dinner also livened up the evening.

The participants were about the same in number as the song about the days of Christmas, so there was plenty of noise to keep the paint brushes moving. The final projects turned out well, and were collected just in time for gift giving.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 7 p.m.

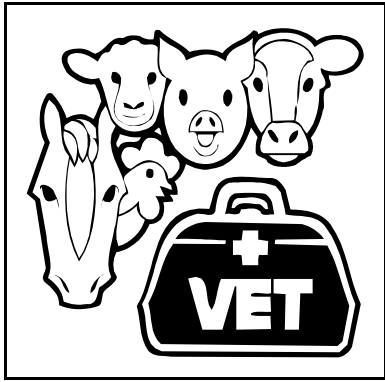
Scholarship Info Available For Seniors

Several seniors attended the meeting on January 7 to review the application process for state scholarships through 4-H. If you missed the meeting, but need the information, contact our office as soon as possible. The process takes time, so last minute workers will be stressed.

Members completing the forms need to remember to have them ready for delivery to the county office by January 20. This will allow me time to review the application and complete the signatures needed. All forms must come through our office to be eligible, so don't forward your completed packets to the state office.

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Upcoming Events

- January 25: County Horse Bowl
Annex, 10 a.m.
- January 25: Mid-Willamette
Valley 4-H Critter
Campus
Polk Co. Fairgrnds.
- January 27: Beef Workshop
Quality Assurance
Steer Selection
Nutrition
Feeding Programs
Grants Pass Ext.
Office, Fairgrounds
6:30-8:30 p.m.
- January 29: Lamb Pool Meeting
Sheep Quality Assur-
ance Program
Annex, 6:30 p.m.
- February 1: National Bee Keep-
ing Essays Due
- February 8: Yamhill County
Small Animal Critter
Romp—McMinnville
- February 8: Lamb & Poultry
Field Day, 9:45 am
Grants Pass Ext.
Fairgrounds
- February 22: County Horse Judg-
ing Contest, Family
4 Arena, 10 am
- February 23: 4-H Leaders Open
Horse Show, Family
4 Arena
- March 8: Swine Field Day
Josephine Co.
Fairgrounds, Grants
Pass
- March 8: Club Displays at
Pony Village Mall
- March 15: Auction Steer Weigh
In, Fairgrounds
10 am—1 pm
- March 22: Regional Horse Bowl
Coos County
- March 29: Oregon Bred Swine
Youth Show
Polk Co. Fairgrnds.
- April 19: Auction Lamb and
Pig Weigh-In
Fairgrounds:
10 am-Noon: Lambs
1-3 pm: Pigs
- *Scrapie Tags Required For All
Lambs Being Weighed.

Is Your Project Animal Experiencing Stress?

If you unloaded your project animal from county fair and sent it off to the usual greener pastures of Coos County, you may want to make a check on it pretty soon. Drought conditions of the summer and fall had a real impact on pasture growth. Many people started feeding hay in August and kept right on feeding, and are still feeding. Feed for your animal may have been much less than usual.

When the rain started, it made an impressive appearance and led to flooding at least twice in most areas. Flooding does little to improve the quality of pasture available to your project animal. Your project animal may be wanting to see you on a regular basis with feed in hand.

Animals on pasture are not the only ones affected by changes in the weather. Small animals may need to be protected from too dry or too wet conditions. Wet conditions in poultry facilities can lead to health problems in the birds and create great habitats for parasites and other pests to live. Treatment should continue year round for internal and external parasites, not just in the spring or summer before the show season.

If you have a stack of feed sacks in the barn or storage shed, you probably also have some pudgy mice or rats close by. Try to store your feed in containers that rodent proof the feed. This will cut down on feed loss and protect your animal from eating contaminated feed. It will also help reduce the smells of mice and rats, and maybe keep those nests of young babies out of your area.

Handling buckets and feed cans is also an important consideration in keeping feed clean and preventing the spread of disease. If you carry a bucket of grain to the trough, empty it, set the bucket on the ground by the trough, and then take it back to refill by dipping it in your feed bin, you have just left dirt and grime in the feed for the next feeding. The same can happen if you stack buckets after they have been on the ground.

Clean feed and water, shelter from extreme weather and protection from disease are your responsibility year round, not just when your project comes to town. Take action, and reduce the stress your animal may be experiencing.

Docking Tails? Don't Forget Your Pencil

If you are raising lambs for 4-H projects, don't forget that tails need to be long enough to be raised with a pencil. You don't need a handle, but you do need enough tail to allow it to be raised. An Extension publication is available at the office which describes the steps of docking and leaving an adequate tail.

Scrapie Tags: Still Needed For Sheep/Goats

If you, your family or 4-H club have not secured Scrapie tags for use in your sheep project animals, be sure to get your order in. Sheep and goats must have the tags if they are to be exhibited or sold. It is your responsibility to make certain the tags are in place, whether placed there by you or the person you purchased your animal from.

Animal Science Websites

The following sites may have just what you need to prepare for an upcoming club meeting, class presentation or personal challenge. Check it out and share your knowledge with others.

<http://equiz.outreach.uiuc.edu> This site allows you to check your knowledge of subject matter related to beef, dairy, forages, horses, meats, poultry, sheep and swine.

<http://www.mylamb.com/index.php3> This site is designed to help sheep project members work through the details of sheep raising and focuses on topics from halter breaking to creating an obstacle course for market lambs.

General Information Site

WWW.URBANEXT.UIUC.EDU This site will allow you to check out several topics, ranging from 4-H to Schools Online and Environmental Stewardship. This may be the place to start when you are searching for general information with research to support it.

4-H Camp Counselor and Staff Trainings

If you have an interest in serving as a camp counselor, now is the time to request an application and get your name on the mailing list for counselor trainings. 4-H members in grades 7-12 are needed to assist with camp as cabin counselors. An adult is also needed to replace one of our staff members who is working full time this summer.

May 3 and 4 have been set as the first meeting of the season for camp counselors and staff. This will be an opportunity to get the plans started, discuss additional county trainings and the state training at the State 4-H Center. The May training will be held in the Davenport Building at the fairgrounds.

4-H Summer Camp has been scheduled for July 7-11 at Camp Myrtlewood. If you have friends that are interested in becoming counselors, encourage them to come along with you on May 3.

An adult is needed to serve as our nurse during camp. If you are qualified, please give me a call. If this is a service you can provide, don't wait until the last minute to sign up.

Public Speaking and Presentations Sought For Spring Horse Classic

Intermediate and senior level 4-H members are needed to help represent our county at the Spring Horse Classic in April. Individual and team presentations and public speaking are three contests that can be entered at the classic. To qualify, your topic must relate to the horse industry and you need to present your talk at the regional horse bowl contest scheduled for March 22 in Coos County.

If you are a 4-H member who enjoys public speaking, please contact me about the guidelines for the contest and the opportunities beyond the state contest.

Websites For 4-H Information

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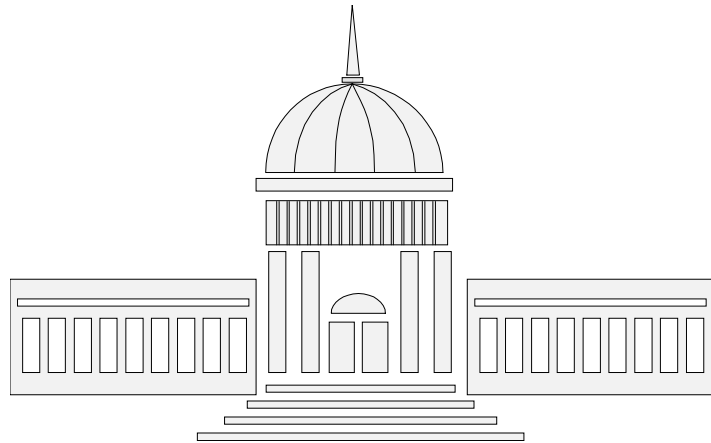
Two websites that may offer assistance and save you a phone call or trip to the Extension office are available at this time. To find out about upcoming county programs and events, check out the Coos County office site and click on 4-H. You can then receive general information, read the Monitor, check out the current calendar of events and discover what other Extension programs have to offer in the coming months.

The Address: <http://osu.orst.edu/extension/coos>

If you want information about state activities and events, or you want to retrieve 4-H records, then the site below should be of help.

The Address: <http://eesc.orst.edu/agcomwebfile/edmatindex4h.html>

I hope these addresses work, and that it is a convenient method of preparing for club meetings and working with members on their technology skills. I imagine each club has at least one member with the computer and skills to make this work.



Know Your State Government Program Registrations Due March 17, 2003

The 2003 Know Your State Government Conference will be April 10-12 in Salem. During the conference, high school age youth will have the opportunity to learn first-hand about Oregon's government through a series of Capitol visits, presentations, workshops and role playing.

Participants will also have the opportunity to meet with various elected officials and others who work in state government. Application materials are available from county offices. Applicants will be selected at the state level, rather than on a guaranteed sign-up by county that has been used in the past. Senior level students will be given priority over younger applicants, since this is their last opportunity to apply.

Counties may submit as many applicants as desired, but if there are more applicants than can be accommodated, some registrations will not be accepted. The registration fee for KYSG will be \$110, which includes room, all meals, transportation between the motel and the Capitol and program materials. Participants must provide transportation to and from Salem. This will be coordinated by each county.

Please contact the Extension office to register. The office needs your name, verification of an official registration on file, and \$110. A refund of \$55 will be provided those who attend and report back to the leaders association at their April meeting. An adult chaperone is needed to assist with transportation and attend all functions of the Know Your State Government program. Please contact me if you can serve as a chaperone.

Check out the brochure included in this edition of the newsletter to get a better idea of all that awaits you in Salem.

Lamb Pool Meeting & Sheep Quality Assurance Program

The Coos County Lamb Marketing Pool Committee will meet in the upstairs conference room of the Coos County Annex in Coquille on January 29 at 6:30 p.m. Marketing strategies and results from 2002 will be addressed. Following the meeting, Jim Thompson, Extension Sheep Specialist, and Amy Peters, Livestock Extension Agent, will conduct the Sheep Quality Assurance portion of the program. Registrations are due January 24, and a \$10 fee is being collected for the Quality Assurance program. Call the office for details.



Auction Committee Sets Weigh-In Times

If you plan to participate in the Coos Youth Auction Committee animal auction, you need to complete your enrollment, secure an animal and be ready to participate in the check-in on the following dates.

Steers will be weighed and tagged on Saturday, March 15 at the Coos County Fairgrounds. The scales will be open from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Steers need to be de-horned, properly castrated and controlled with a halter when presented to the committee on March 15.

Lambs and pigs will be weighed and tagged on Saturday, April 19 at the Coos County Fairgrounds. The scales will be open from 10 a.m. until noon for lambs and 1 to 3 p.m. for hogs. Arrive between these hours to join the line and weigh-in project animals. Lambs and pigs may be male or female, but all males must be properly castrated and healed prior to weigh-in.

Suggested weights for animals entering the auction project are as follows:

- Steers- 600 to 800 pounds
- Lambs- 55 to 75 pounds
- Pigs- 50 to 80 pounds

These weights are recommendations only, and do not account for differences in breed, frame size and current body condition. Past programs have proven that animals weighing less than the weights listed have been difficult to prepare for the auction project.

Minimum weights for each area are steers, 900 pounds; hogs, 200 pounds; and lambs, 105 pounds. Keep the market preferences in mind when you predict the finish weight of your project. Steers that weigh over 1300 pounds may not sell as well as those at 1100. Hogs finished at 250 pounds may place better than the 200 pound ones. Lambs at 135 pounds will be more likely to produce a 65 pound carcass than those weighing in at 105 pounds.

S.W. Oregon Spring Show & Sale—May 17

Members enrolled in dog, cat, poultry, pigeon, rabbit and cavy should plan to enter and exhibit at the upcoming Spring Show. This clinic, show and sale is a great place to share information, learn about other projects and secure animals for use this year. Catalogs will be printed soon, so be watching for your copy to arrive in the mail.

Showmanship, health care, handling and selection will all be part of this full day of 4-H information. Youth and adults can participate in the poultry, rabbit, cavy and pigeon portions of the show, with 4-H and open class divisions available. Cat and dog clinics are for 4-H members only. This program is sponsored by the Coos County 4-H Leaders Association and is open to anyone interested in registering.

Help Needed To Host Open Horse Show

Volunteer leaders, members and families are needed to help with the open horse show sponsored by the 4-H Leaders Association on Sunday, February 23. Shifts start early in the morning and run throughout the day.

Help is needed in the cook shack, at the gate, and around the wood stove. Jobs in the cook shack range from filling coffee and hot chocolate cups to creating chili dogs and nachos. Donations of baked goods or food items will be gladly accepted.

If you have extra fire wood to supply heat for the day, this could be a great way to improve the event. Dry wood that burns and puts out a little heat is always welcome.

This could be a great club community service project, one that will support 4-H events and activities for all project areas. You do not need to be in the horse project to make this a 4-H club activity. If each club spent an hour at this event, the work would not be overwhelming.

Keep this and other information in mind when you select an animal to purchase. Remember that steers must gain 2.75 pounds per day, hogs must gain at least 1 pound per day and lambs need to gain 0.4 pounds per day. These amounts should help you predict the needed starting weight.

Members planning to participate in the small animal portion of the auction program also have dates and guidelines to follow. Make sure the following information is in place to help you meet the project goals:

Be enrolled in the project no later than April 15, 2003.

Does bred for raising pens of fryer rabbits must be bred after April 15, 2003.

Chicks hatched for raising pens of fryer chickens must be hatched after May 29, 2003.

Rabbits must weigh 3 and 3/4 to 5 and 1/2 pounds at the fair weigh-in, and must be less than 69 days old.

Chickens must weigh 4 to 6 pounds and be less than 8 weeks old at the fair weigh-in.

Be sure to read all the guidelines of the program, and plan to attend the monthly meetings of the auction committee. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at the annex, and begin at 7:30.



Western Regional 4-H Leader's Forum: A Place To Learn, Share and Have Fun

Registrations can still be submitted for the leaders forum, although the early bird prices do not apply. If you have not checked out the class listings, do take time to look them over. Copies are available at the front desk of the Extension office.

Programs are scheduled for three full days, with enough variety to meet the needs of most project areas. This is a great place to share your ideas and learn from 4-H leaders from the 13 western states. The opportunity to attend in Oregon will not come around for another 13 years! Don't wait on this one.



Fair Board Notes and Reminders

4-H leaders planning to use buildings or facilities on the county fairgrounds need to complete use permits with the fair office before setting up events. Coordinating times of use, payment for use of the facility and potential food sales must be registered. If food sales are going to be conducted, a temporary restaurant license is required. This can be obtained at the Coos County Health Department.

If you have not reserved your camping space for fair week, now is the time to do so. Payment and paperwork is needed before April 15 if you hope to secure a reserved space. Contact the fair office for assistance at 572-2002.

The fair theme for 2003 has been selected. "Come Party With Some Real Animals" is the official theme for the Coos County Fair and Rodeo. Start making plans for parade entries, cookie designs, barn decorations and animal dress-up ideas.

2003 Fair Dates: July 22-26 (This is Tuesday through Saturday).

Clubs Needed To Assist With Community Events and Festivals

Throughout the summer and fall, community events directors contact the Extension office in need of displays, petting fairs and activities for the public. If your club would like to volunteer to coordinate one of these events, or provide an activity that involves the public and features the 4-H program, please let me know.

If clubs start to sign up now, it will make the plans easier for the other clubs wanting to join in. If your club has an interest in putting together a float, there are several parades which would welcome another community group. Please give this some thought as a means of promoting 4-H throughout the county.

Youth and Adults Needed To Serve Terms on Oregon 4-H Leaders Association Board

Our region is in need of adult representation on the state board. The three year term begins in the fall of 2003, with attendance at a spring and fall meeting expected. Participation helps our county program stay in touch with changes, concerns and plans for the state 4-H program. It has been several years since a leader in our county has been nominated. If you have the desire, I have the time to complete the nomination and send it on. Applications are due April 1.

Youth representation is also being requested for the State 4-H Leaders Association Board. Youth in grades 10-12 are being invited to apply for one eight board positions. Youth serve a one year term which begins in the fall and continues through the next spring and summer. Attendance at two board meetings is expected, and public appearances in addition to the meetings may be necessary.

If you are interested in either of these state level opportunities, let me know and I can forward your application.

4-H National Congress Alumni Sought

A reunion of 4-H alumni who participated in the National Congress program is being planned. Help is needed in tracking down a few of the participants from Coos County. If you have any leads on how these individuals might be located, or what their current name might be, please contact our office.

1978 Delegates:

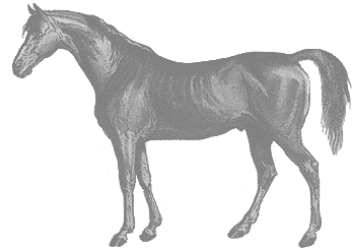
Elizabeth Berndt
Jan Pratt
Steve Schneiderean
David Wilson

1983 Delegates

Wendy Gunnell
Lorie Richter
Kimberly Silvernail

Business Signs Ready To Distribute

Do you own or operate a business that would promote 4-H with a window sign? We will provide them if you will request them.



2003 Spring Horse Classic Events

Douglas County is hosting the Spring Horse Classic this year, so travel expenses should be reasonable. It will be held April 25-27.

Public Speaking and Presentations will be open to all intermediate and senior level members. One entry per county per age level will be allowed. Fees have raised to \$25 per person per event, so a commitment to participate must be guaranteed by youth planning to attend.

Guidelines for Horse Bowl will remain the same, and the horse judging contest will be scored to allow two teams to advance to the National contest. Horse judging and Hippology will both be offered, and several of the events judged in horse judging will be included in the Hippology contest score. For details on this contest, please request a contest guide for the Spring Horse Classic.

Chaperones Needed For Spring And Summer Events

Coos County has an active 4-H program, with members interested in participating at the county, state and national level. This happens because we have volunteers willing to serve as chaperones at local and state events. Activities are coming up that need chaperones. If you are willing to transport and supervise our county groups, please let me know. I am not able to attend all activities, especially if they require weekdays out of the office. Please consider how you might assist, and give me a call. Members may be restricted if we don't have the adult support to allow participation.

Oregon Laws Have Changed—Check Out Limitations on Teen Drivers

The following laws apply to teen drivers, and may impact how you hope to transport members during 4-H events. During the first six months that a new driver is licensed, they must:

Not drive with a passenger under age 20 that is not a family member.

During the second six months, they must:

Not drive with more than 3 passengers who are under age 20 and not members of the family.

During the first year, new teen drivers may not drive between midnight and 5 a.m. unless:

They are traveling to and from work or school, and no other transportation is provided.

They have a licensed driver age 25 or older with them.

Students under the age of 18 must be enrolled as a student in order to maintain their drivers license. For more information, or clarification, contact a local DMV office.

Above information taken from Tillamook County 4-H Newsletter

Oregon Fryer Commission: Pen of Fryers Contest

Applications are available for the annual Oregon Fryer Commission youth contest. All youth must register by April 6, 2001 and submit the \$5 registration fee. Contestants must be less than 20 years of age and all chicks must be picked up on Saturday, May 5, 2001.

Pens must be returned for judging on Saturday, June 23, 2001. If a pen of birds is not returned, the contestant must pay a \$25 to assist with contest expenses.

Contestants must pick up their 15 chicks on the OSU campus in Corvallis and return their pen of 3 to the Polk County Fairgrounds for judging. Following the contest, the birds remain the responsibility of the Contestants. No processing or sale of birds is provided by the Oregon Fryer Commission.

Application forms are available at the Extension office. Don't miss out on an opportunity to earn a cash prize by having one of the top three pens in your age group. Request the forms for the details.

Market Pigs For Sale

Nathan Hollman is a 4-H/FFA member with Yorkshire and cross-bred project pigs for sale. He has a great selection for sale and invites you to check out his website at www.geocities.com/hollmanfarms and his email at hollman@pioneer-net.com.

Local producers also have market pigs for sale. The Kennedy Outfit usually has a good variety of market pigs, and they can be reached at 572-3878.

The Wileys, of Southfork Livestock, also have market pigs for sale. If you need a pig, or want a pig, contact the Wiley Ranch at 572-3442 or one of the other pig raisers listed in this article.

Now is the time to get your market pig reserved.

Are You Suffering From Dehydration?

It has been dry this winter, and you may be one of many in need of a refreshing drink of water. I'm sure I qualify, unless the cups of coffee can be counted.

75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated.

37% of Americans have a thirst mechanism that is so weak it is often mistaken for hunger.

Even mild dehydration will shut down metabolism as much as 3%.

Drinking 5 glasses of water daily reduces colon cancer by 45% the risk of breast cancer by 79% and bladder cancer by 50%. Are you drinking enough water each day?



Upcoming 4-H Leader Forums Set

The 2002 Oregon 4-H Leaders Forum will be held April 5-6 in Corvallis. Get this down on your calendar now and plan to attend the Forum as we celebrate 100 years of 4-H. The Benton County 4-H Leaders Association will be hosting the forum.

The 2003 Western Regional 4-H Leaders Forum will be held in Oregon. This will be an event that will require help from leader associations from around the state. Our help will be needed to make this a great experience for leaders from throughout the west.

The theme, "Raindrops and Clovers" has been selected, and now work will continue on plans, location and date. If you have a desire to help with the program, please let me know.

Oregon Extension Service Celebrates 90 Years of Service

Now you know the answer to that nagging question, "I wonder how long the Extension Service has been around?" 2001 celebrates the 90th anniversary of Extension in Oregon, and at Oregon's University in Corvallis. The name has changed from Oregon Agricultural College to Oregon State College to Oregon State University, but the Extension service has remained throughout the name changes.

Watch for special logos and articles about this anniversary in your 4-H publications from campus. I imagine there will also be a website dedicated to providing a little history about the organization. A topic for a 4-H presentation?

Donations Needed

4-H Spaghetti Feed and Auction is set for Saturday, April 7. Start asking for sale items now, and return in March to secure and deliver the goods.

Did you know that Americans enjoy "American cuisine" the most (69%) followed by Italian (62%), Chinese (59%) and Mexican (55%). We are in luck, all of these choices are available in Coos County.

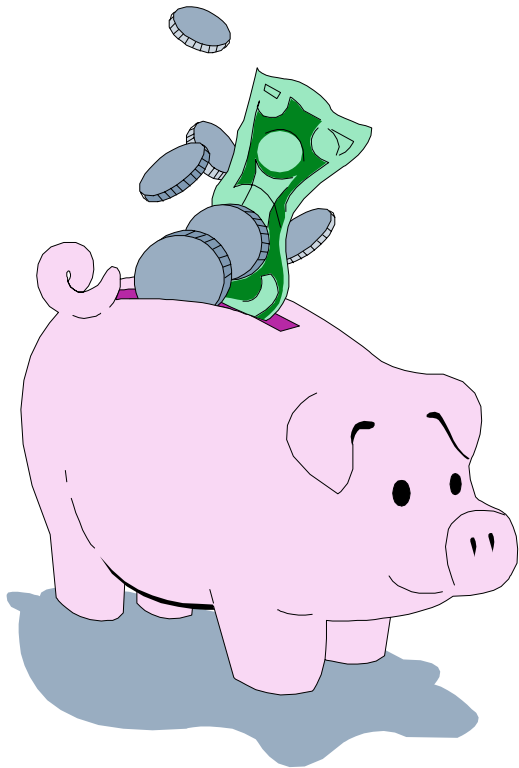
Source: "A Taste of Tomorrow: Flavor Trends, Terms, and Tracks To True Growth" presented by Elizabeth Sloan

The travels of the Starter Committee included three days on the road, mostly in the dark, in more ways than one. The first day was simple, with destinations familiar to the crew. We talked beef with Kaylee Hermann and then sheep with Bryce Linderman. Both knew a few facts and shared a few tales, but the committee was impressed with their selections and plans. Kaylee selected a Red Angus heifer and had it in lead and Bryce was with a bred Suffolk ewe that he is adding to his flock. Day one was short, just a warm up for our jaws and our ears, but two days in the future and we would have more to share.

Tuesday we drove and we drove and then we located Taylor Palermo and his llamas in a great spot off the beaten path. Hooray for reverse and four wheel drive, as the starter committee does not always agree. Just off the highway, inland from Reedsport, we found Taylor and his llamas, all happy and organized with space to run, eat and sleep. It was back to the truck and off to the south to meet with Ridge Bussmann and check out his beef selection. Darkness had hit us, but headlights and flashlights work well. We think he has a pure black heifer, but we will know more in the light. It's handy for us that the shop opened up and we filled our coat pockets with jerky to hold us until dinner. No time for long chatter, we headed south once again, this time to Port Orford to meet the Culleys and their llamas. Robyn and Jesse each had great stories and talked of their experiences and hopes and wishes. The llamas were great, with space, feed and shelter and two girls who were providing them time to learn new things. One more day on our schedule and the fall visits would end, then we would have to wait for spring to gather again.

Wednesday started with pigeons as Dane Saxton showed us his brood. They looked settled and happy, but less flighty than most. We caught up on some themes and learned news about chickens, just in time to load up and head to the country again. We slowed at my house and I did a few chores, then again on the road to visit Derick Gurney and his Red Angus heifer. Again with the headlights we spotted the herd, they lined up in order and showed us their goods. We learned about plans and where this project was headed, then we had to load up and go forward. We made it to the summit and met up with Ashley Quackenbush where we met Annie her horse. Annie was content in a warm, lighted barn with fresh hay and water in her stall. As we returned we all agreed these animals are looking good and if they continue will be great additions to the 4-H projects already in place.

Starter and Award animals are checked twice each year by the county starter committee, with representatives from the Extension office, Fair Board and 4-H Leaders Association. Applications are required for all of the above award animals, so watch the newsletter and fair book for details on how to apply.



Fund Raising For 4-H

The 4-H Leaders Association has several ways of raising money for program support. The annual spaghetti feed and auction provide one of the greatest boosts each year, but other sales and projects also help. Candles, candy and barn buddy stuffed animals are part of the plan in 2003. If you or your club would like to help support 4-H by marketing these items, please stop by the office for more information.

Now is the time to start collecting items for the April auction. As you are making your shopping rounds, keep the leaders in mind and ask whether or not the business might be included on this years list of donors. All donors receive meal tickets and a big thank you from 4-H.

Leaders To Meet January 28

The monthly meeting of the Coos County 4-H Leaders Association is set for 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28. All leaders are encouraged to attend and participate in the vote on the amended by-laws for the association.

Committee meetings will follow at 7:45 p.m. All project areas are invited to come and discuss program needs for the upcoming months. If programs are not being offered, it is probably because they are not being requested. Offer your ideas and energy to make these meetings an even better way to promote 4-H in Coos County.

Executive Board Meeting: 6:15 p.m. on January 28.

New 4-H Publication

Club leaders and treasurers have a new resource to help them account for club dollars. This new publication allows the club to plan events and budget expenses for the event, track all income and expenses and list the equipment and supplies owned by the club.

All leaders are reminded that the annual reports for club expenses were due at the end of the year. Your report is an important part of the association's book keeping, and is needed. Please provide all forms to Rhonda.



Agent Notes



I am really glad to be back in the office and not just sitting and waiting for things to heal. It's amazing to me that it can take fewer days for a replaced knee joint to mend than for a severed big toe to heal. I still have an occasional cramp or twinge from the April toe repair, but all seems great with the new knee. The best part of the entire operation was the loss of the constant pain from the worn out joint that had been grinding away and surrounded with arthritis. I recommend this for any of you who are taking daily doses of pain killers so you can try to walk somewhat normally.

My annual reports are complete and I am finishing up a lesson for the second edition of the Oregon Outdoor Cookery publications. Don't panic, my topic fits my lifestyle. I am doing the section on securing your food from outdoor pests. You might recall that I am experienced with rats and mice, have dealt with more than one raccoon in the cat food, have saved my pigeons from hawk attacks, moved briskly out of the way as a bear killed one of my ewes, and assisted in the design of a domed garden netting that keeps all pests at bay. So, although my portion won't have a great deal to do with food preparation, it will certainly have a lot to do with whether or not any food makes it to the table.

My holidays were calm and relaxing, although there was a lot of snow and ice in the area. I didn't hit the slopes, but did take a sleigh ride and take in a movie or two. As usual, the best part was getting home and being able to get back into the old routine. It just isn't a complete day without feeding sheep and birds before I get to the office and then doing it again when I get home. The excitement this time of year is the hatching of baby pigeons and the delivery of baby lambs. Although the lambs rank much higher on the beauty scale at birth, the pigeons usually develop into something nicer looking as adults. Lambs have started, so this slows me down in the barn as I stop and admire how cute they are.

My duck herding ability has again been tested. I had raised three sweet little ducks through the summer and fall. Some of you admired them at the display during the Gay 90's festivities. As luck would have it, they found the body of water during the recent floods to be much more attractive than the nice pond below the culvert where they grew up. If you happen to spot a khaki, tan and black duck playing in the waters of any part of the Coquille River, give them a little Duck, Duck, Duck call for me.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Mast, Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development

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