One National Team Home and One on its Way

The horse project members representing Oregon at the National Horse Judging and National Public Speaking contests in Kentucky, have returned. It’s safe to say, they “had a blast,” or at least that’s what I’m getting from various Facebook postings (I’m sharing a few of their photos with you). In addition to experiencing a trip of a lifetime, they also competed against 21 other National Qualifying teams. Anna Shoffner competed in the public speaking contest and placed 6th. Of course, only a few points separated the top presenters and being sixth in a field of 21 Nationally qualified speakers, very special and pretty cool too! Congratulations Anna! The horse judging team did not place as high, but did better than their overall result in reasons, which was one of their goals. They worked hard and although they placed out of the top 10, they are still able to recognize each of their successes. Congratulations to Chrystal Bates, who flew in from college to compete, Lindy Perry also taking time away from college and Kayla Vincent from Jefferson county! They are some of the best horse judging youth in the Nation, also awesome! To all of the participants and coach Karissa, Congratulations and thank you for representing Deschutes County and Oregon! And much thanks to Lynne who kept it all in line as well as the other parents who took on various duties, whether fundraising, driving, or just making sure their kid continued to be encouraged, thanks for making this special opportunity possible!

The livestock team is flying out as I’m penning this article and I expect them back around the 17th of November. Safe travels and enjoy the ride!

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**DESHUTES COUNTY 4-H CALENDAR**

### 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nov</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Exec Meeting; Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>COSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Advisory Meeting; DCFE - NS 6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Record Book Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Cookie Camp; NS 9:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tri-County Horse Judging—Event Center; 1 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>New Leader Training; 6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>INT/SR Horse Bowl; DCFE-NS; 9 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dec</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>INT/SR Horse Bowl; DCFE-NS; 9 AM</td>
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### 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jan</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Advisory Meeting; NS; 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-17</td>
<td>High Desert Leadership Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>INT/SR Horse Bowl; DCFE-NS; 9 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Presentation Workshop Series #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>New Leader Training; 6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Feb</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Steer Weigh In; 10 am—12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Executive Meeting; 6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Auction Committee Meeting; 6:00</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Cookie Camp; NS</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Idea Fair; All Day, All Sisters Bldg</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>COSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Presentation Workshop Series #3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>Sportsmen’s Pentathlon</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Advisory Meeting; NS; 6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Presentation Workshop Series #4</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>New Leader Training; 6:30</td>
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<td><strong>Apr</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Executive Meeting; 6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Skills Contest; Redmond High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>JR Horse Bowl; DCFE-NS; 9 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sm Animal Bowl; DCFE-NS; 11:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Auction Committee Meeting; 6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sheep &amp; Swine Weigh In: 4-8 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Goat Weigh In 6-8 pm</td>
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<td><strong>June</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Juniper Jackpot</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Executive Meeting; 6:00</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Auction Committee Meeting; 6:00</td>
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<td><strong>July</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Small Animal Weigh-In; 4-6 pm</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Advisory Meeting; NS; 6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Auction Committee Meeting; 6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-24</td>
<td>HORSE FAIR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aug</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3-7</td>
<td>Fashion Revue; 9:00am, NS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sep</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Advisory Meeting; NS; 6:00</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Executive Meeting; 6:00</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Auction Committee Meeting; 6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Advisory Meeting; NS; 6:00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Changed Date.

All meetings are at the Extension office unless otherwise noted.

Project committee meetings are open to all leaders, members, and parents. This is where decisions are made regarding your project area. Your

**Advisory Meeting Date Changes!**

Our March Advisory meeting has moved from March 8 to MARCH 15TH and our July 12 meeting has moved to JULY 5.

**Like Cookies?**

Once again 4-H is working with the Central Oregon Symphony to provide refreshments. This means Cookie Camps are ON! Please contact Joy Mosier to sign up for a date and a time—WE need you and this is fun!

This is a great opportunity for 4-H to be in the public eye, to an audience we aren’t reaching in other ways, and to make a little extra dollars for event scholarships as well.

Call Joy at 541-389-9761

**Camp** dates are Saturday:

- Feb 12, 2011
- Apr 30, 2011

**On a similar note…**

The Central Oregon Symphony dates are Saturday through Monday:

- Feb 19-21, 2011
- May 14-16, 2011

And we need clubs to serve...again, this is fun and a great opportunity for 4-H. Contact Kelly Conklin to sign up to serve for a performance, her number is: 541-322-0493
Survey Says...

We discussed the findings and determinations of the recent Deschutes County 4-H survey, at the November Project Advisory meeting. I presented a presentation outlining the process, numbers, conclusions and such. However, for those who could not attend, I thought I would share some brief conclusions…

1. The final survey was submitted by less than 5% of the potential audience, but submissions represented all project areas, around 50% leaders, 50% parents and 15% members responded. (some parents are also leaders).

2. It’s clear that most believe everything we are currently doing has value and is important. Most would prefer we focus on quality programs and not worry about how many participants we have.

3. Many people do not understand the importance of project advisory meetings and why it’s so important for every club to be represented. Most everyone reads the newsletter to some extent, but not many are utilizing our website.

4. In summary, after hashing out the survey with the executive committee, three major themes surfaced:

A. Volunteer Management.
   1. Educating volunteers
   2. Recruiting volunteers
   3. Getting commitment
   4. Communication!

B. Promotion of 4-H
   1. Utilize the fair
   2. National 4-H Week
   3. Community Groups
   4. Parades
   5. Free Media

C. Communication!
   1. Accurate Information
   2. Timeliness
   3. User Friendly Access

These are things we are going to focus on as a staff, for improvement and emphasis.

Lots of other great information came from the survey, quality constructive comments, and an awareness of how we can better inform folks and how we are perceived by the masses.

As a direct result of the survey, you will notice a few things coming your way…

- A workshop series targeting club leaders; including organization, including youth development, making meetings fun, etc.
- More speaking opportunities for teen staff, a new communications club, and others who want to tell the 4-H story.
- Recruitment of volunteers to do duties outside of being a project club leader. Organizing an event, taking registrations, managing, planning, etc.
- A paid staff member may not be at every 4-H thing that is going on.
- And more!

If you are interested in viewing the power point slides, I am happy to share with you, or if you just want to visit, give a call or email.

[Signature]
What’s Up?

High Desert Volunteer Retreat

This annual retreat, High Desert Volunteer Retreat: “Leading the Way to Learning”, is held over Martin Luther King, Jr weekend in January (January 14-17, 2011) at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, OR.

Several options are available for participation:

1) full time registration which includes 3 nights lodging in a condo with other 4-H volunteers and all meals or

2) part time registration which is for workshops only (Sat and Sun). Costs are quite reasonable considering the resort location ($150 for full-time, $80 for part time).

The retreat is focused on volunteer and club development, not project specific material.

Some tentative workshops for 2011 include:
- Positive Youth Development: “How to Hit a Home Run in Your Club”
- The Structure of the 4-H Program and What it Means to Me
- Risk Management
- Record Books: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
- Speakeasy: How to Make Speech Giving Non Threatening
- Managing Challenging Behaviors in Your Club
- Leader Associations: What are they all about and how do I fit in?

For more information and the registration, go to www.deschutes4h.com.

High Desert Leadership Retreat

The HDLR is an annual youth conference held over the Martin Luther King, Jr weekend. During the four-days, youth from throughout Central Oregon gather at the Eagle Crest Resort to challenge their minds and bodies by engaging in skill building and asset development.

Fee: $150.00 (If registered by December 17th) Scholarship applications are due by Friday, December 17, 2010

Make sure and bring your instruments, singing voices, and/or unique talents for the talent show.

Registration Forms are available at the Extension Office or on-line at www.deschutes4h.com

Project Advisory Meeting Schedule 2011

A project advisory meeting is the place where information is shared and decisions are made about program and specific project areas. All leaders, members and parents are invited.

Generally, the second Tuesday of odd months at 6 pm in the North Sister Building on the fairgrounds…Six meetings annually.

Jan 11 ~ Mar 15 (3rd Tue)
May 10 ~ Jul 5 (1st Tue)
Sep 13 ~ Nov 8

I can’t explain how important having a representative from your club attend these meetings is. Leaders, PLEASE find a way to attend! Your input is priceless and your members need you to bring back the information. ccb

Fair Theme ~ 2011

Country Nights & Carnival Lights
What’s Up?

What is a Project Advisory Meeting?

Project Advisory Meetings are the opportunity for parents, members, and leaders to share information, to have input on program, project rules, and so much more. They are “advisory” to the 4-H staff (both paid and volunteer) and they help mold our program. All members, leaders and parents are invited and every club should be represented. The advisory meetings are set up in the following format:

- We meet in odd months, Jan, Mar, etc.
- We have a 30 minute educational piece designed to keep you better informed, do a better job with your club, and keep your 4-H IQ high. Topics have included: generational differences, dealing with difficult situations, available special awards, the permanent record, and lots more!
- We meet as a general group to share information that may be pertinent to all project areas. For example: information about the pentathlon, the million penny round up, the food booth, awards, program direction etc.
- These two things are followed by project area meetings. These include: livestock (sheep, swine, goat, beef, llama), horse, dog, small animal (rabbit, cavy, poultry, pigeon), natural resources and home economics/expressive arts.
- The timeline looks like this:
  6–6:30 Educational Piece
  6:30-7: General Meeting
  7:-8:30 Project Meetings

Sometimes it’s 9 pm before we’re done, but usually, most are done sooner.

Each meeting is facilitated, notes are taken and the information is used to make our program better. Please commit to making your club or your 4-H experience better; more input and opinions is good and we want to hear from you—this is your venue. This organization is about youth you care about, please take the time to be informed and to share your thoughts.

It’s Educational Display Time!

Don’t wait until everyone is busy with their fair projects, do your educational displays now! It’s a safe bet that educational display exhibits will be a part of the new high point exhibitor awards, why not do them now and they’ll be finished before your animal arrives or the weather clears.

It’s also a great time for club displays, get everything together and use some meeting time to create a hands on educational club display, be creative so we can show off your good work in the 4-H building at fair! Don’t put it off, things will get crazy, work on this now. It’s a great way to get your clubs started and working together! Ccb

Find additional information at
www.deschutes4h.com; fair 2011, County Exhibitors handbook, page 55 AND http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/fair-exhibit-and-contest-materials; scroll down to educational display

2011 Outbound 4-H International Exchange Programs

The International Exchange Program is offering opportunities to travel to: Australia, Costa Rica, and Japan. Additional information and complete application materials will be available on our website after mid-October. Application deadline is January 7, 2011 for all programs.

In order to obtain the best airfare prices, our national management group must purchase tickets by mid-February. Thus the required deposit payment for 2011 will be: $1500 for Japan and Australia, and $1000 for Costa Rica. This deposit is required with the application materials. Anyone not selected by Oregon, for the program will receive a full refund on their deposit.

Keep watching for more information. www.deschutes4h.com
What’s Up?

The Transformation of Choice Friday

Whatever happened to the Choice Friday partnership that evolved last year when Redmond Schools went to a 4-day school week due to budget cuts. The answer to that is a new organizational partnership known as TapRoot.

Realizing the collaborative efforts of Choice Friday were too good to lose when Redmond resumed a 5-day school week, the Choice Friday partnership has morphed into a new non-profit called TapRoot, aimed at continued help and support for the Redmond School District.

The current project is called Resource Bank 400 and is an effort to establish 400 new in-school volunteers that will help provide enriching activities once a week, allowing teachers to have some prep time.

The diverse make up of the Resource Bank will allow teachers to pick and choose different in-class activities in which their class can participate, that will best offer some experiential learning the mirrors the subject matter being taught in class.

If you have a particular skill, from gardening, sewing or crafts, to engineering, aeronautics or music, and would be willing to put together a short, engaging presentation to middle or elementary schoolers, TapRoot would like to hear from you.

For more information contact Todd Williver at Deschutes County 4-H. 541-548-6088

Fundraising Dates Set!

Two major Fund Raisers are now schedule for 2011.

March 12th and 13th, 2011 will be the weekend for the 2nd annual Sportsmen’s Pentathlon. This year’s event will expand to cover two days, to accommodate the anticipated increase in registration and will include additional events. The line up for this year will be Chukar Hunt, 3-D Archery, GPS Navigation, Fly Fishing, and Sporting Clays (just like last year) with the addition of a Rimfire Rifle and Pistol Course. The event will be scored similar to last year, with two-person teams participating in their favorite 5 events, and the team score based on the three highest scores. Event 4 and 5 will then be used as tie-breakers.

July 9th will be the Million Penny Radio Round-Up. While event details are still being ironed out, the hope is that BiMart will opt to be involved for a second year, and we will again have a live radio remote as well as BBQ, and car-wash.

Both of these events are meant to supplement the Deschutes County 4-H general fund with proceeds used to provide scholarship and programming for 4-H youth.

Volunteer help is needed to organize and staff both events.

At this point chair-persons are needed for:
• live/silent auction for the pentathlon
• banquet preparation for pentathlon
• volunteer coordination for pentathlon
• promotion for the pentathlon
• volunteer coordination for MPRR
• promotion for MPRR
• others TBD

If interested please contact Todd Williver at Deschutes County 4-H 541-548-6088
What’s Up?

Portland Trailblazer Night

Portland Trailblazer night is back. Join other 4-H families on Friday, March 25, 2011 as the Portland Trailblazer’s take on the San Antonio Spurs.

As in pass years, twenty 4-H members will have the opportunity to greet the Blazers as they enter the court. If you are interest in being on of those twenty members contact Sara Miller at sara.miller@oregonstate.edu

Go online to: http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/portland-trailblazers-4h-night to buy your tickets.

Communication is KEY!

As many of you may know already, we have had the first installment in the Public Speaking and Presentation workshop series. The turnout was so great and enthusiasm so high, we are starting a Speech Communications 4-H Club.

This project area includes Public Speaking, Team and Individual Presentations, and Videography. Our first club meeting will be Monday, January 10th at 6:30 pm at the Extension office. There will be no competitive requirements associated with being a member of the communications club; instead our focus will be on techniques used in public speaking and preparing members for all types of speaking situations. If you are interested in speaking competitively there will also be opportunties for that in the club, although competition isn’t a requirement.

The more members we have the better, so if you even THINK you might be interested, please come and check it out! Also, there is no need to wait until January to enroll! Just fill out the paperwork and turn it in to Reaza!

If you would like more information or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Karissa!

S.E.T/STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Enrichment Opportunities in Bend, Redmond, Sisters Schools

Deschutes County 4-H has partnered with Bend, Redmond and Sisters Parks and Recreation Districts to offer engaging SET/STEM activities as enrichment and after-school programs.

The programs run for 60 to 90 minutes and afford an opportunity for elementary and middle school youth to learn SET/STEM principles while participating in fun activities including marshmallow throwing catapults, Lego Robotics powered tractor pulls, drag races or battle-bots, as well as other funs scientific investigative projects.

Deschutes County 4-H is looking for interested volunteers to facilitate these weekly programs, as well as encouraging local youth to participate.

If you’re interested in being a volunteer or would like to sign up a youth to participate, contact Todd Williver at Deschutes County 4-H. 541-548-6088
Looking for Modeling Expert

I would like us to put on a modeling clinic this winter, but I don’t know who to contact for expertise. Anyone have any suggestions? Please Email or give me a call with ideas. Candi.Bothum@oregonstate.edu

Fashion Review and Awards

How Do You Feel About Change?

There’s some support to make Fashion Review into just fashion review. Instead of breaking it up with awards, we would include special current year achievements in their commentary. Something like “…here is Janet wearing her matching poodle skirt and blouse. Janet spent several hours getting the zipper just right and is this year’s Champion poodle skirt maker…”

Then the awards would be given out a ceremony at the North Sister building either Sunday morning or afternoon with all awards from that building.

I think this will give the fashion review a more professional flow, we can still give recognition to each of the kids and not all the awards confusion, transportation, etc. What do you think? ccb

Skills Contests Date Set

The food, clothing, knitting and crocheting skills contests dates have been established. They will all be during one contest. Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9. Friday, will be from 4-8 pm and Saturday, all day. We’ll be adding two contests to foods this year, the Quick Fix Meal and For 6, 8 or 10. Please check the Exhibitor’s Handbook on line for guidelines. Additionally, it’s also quite likely that the major special awards associated with Foods, Clothing, Knitting and Crocheting will include ribbon placing from contests in their scoring. So, get these dates on your schedule. The event will be held at Hugh Hartman High School in Redmond. ccb

Iron Chef..ers, Get Ready!

We’re currently working on a way to have an Iron Chef contest during fair...so start practicing, we want your team to participate! More info to come!

Idea Fair Needs You!

The 2011 Idea Fair will be here before we know it and we would love for you to share your talents and/or interests with others. You do not have to teach on the project area that you are a leader in, you can teach about anything that would be of interest such as scrapbooking or bread making or dough ornaments (could be on any subject). Would you be willing to teach a class? Contact Reaza at 541-548-6088 if you are interested.

Fair Theme ~ 2011

Country Nights & Carnival Lights
The Lee Side

Shooting Sports
Master Leader Training

Are you interested in becoming a Shooting Sports leader in Deschutes County? Currently Deschutes County has Archery, Pistol and Shotgun clubs with the ability to add Rifle and Muzzleloading. In order to lead a 4-H shooting sports club new leaders are required to take a 15 hour training course that is offered only a few times a year. The next course is scheduled for weekend of February 12th and 13th, 2010.

You need not be an expert marksman to be a 4-H shooting sports leader. You will learn the fundamentals of your chosen discipline during the training, along with range safety and youth development.

Shooting sports is a great way to engage our youth, and I’d encourage you to start a new Shooting Sports club for Deschutes County. Many of our current clubs are growing to capacity. For more info contact Todd Williver at Deschutes County 4-H.

Pistol Club forming at Deschutes County 4-H

Are you interested in Shooting Sports? Do you know that Deschutes County 4-H offers Shotgun, Archery and now a Rim-Fire Pistol club?

Club leaders receive a minimum of 15 hours of additional training to facilitate a shooting sports club, and the club operate under the tightest of safety guidelines to provide a safe, instructional, and fun environment for 4-H youth to learn, practice and hone the skills of shooting.

The new pistol club will launch in November, during the new 4-H year.

If you are interested in joining the pistol club, or becoming a shooting sports leader, contact Todd Williver at Deschutes County 4-H. 541-548-6088

Catch Pen

Idea Fair Needs You!

The 2011 Idea Fair will be here before we know it and we would love for you to share your talents and/or interests with others. You do not have to teach on the project area that you are a leader in, you can teach about anything that would be of interest such as scrapbooking or bread making or dough ornaments (could be on any subject). Would you be willing to teach a class? Contact Reaza at 541-548-6088 if you are interested.

Weigh In Dates Set..

Remember all market and carcass animals must be weighed at pre-fair weigh in.

Steers: Sat, Feb 5; 10 am—Noon; Sagebrush Arena at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds.
- enter the fairgrounds and turn left, follow it around behind the Expo center.

Sheep & Swine: Mon, May 16; 4 pm—8 pm; behind the sheep and swine barns at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds.
- sheep enter the fairgrounds and turn right; -swine enter the fairgrounds and turn left.

Goats: Mon, May 16; 6 pm—8 pm; behind the sheep barn at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds.
- enter the fairgrounds and turn right.

Judging Contest Clinic

When: Sat, May 14, 2011
Where: Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Time: All Day Event
**Small Animal**

**Weigh In Date Set**

All market animals must be weighed at pre-fair weigh in. Up to 6 rabbits or up to 6 market chickens or 2 turkeys may be weighed.

Tue, Jul 5; 4pm—6 pm; place TBD (tentative)

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**Horse’n Around**

**Ranchmanship: Change is in the air**

The new Ranch Horse Contest Guide and Ranch Horse Project book are NOW AVAILABLE!!!!!! Enrolled horse project members can pick up their materials at the extension office, and they are also available for download off of the leaders website www.deschutes4h.com.

The Deschutes County Ranch Horse program will operate within the State material. What does that mean for you?

1) You REALLY need to read the contest guide and project book thoroughly to make sure you know what items have changed, and

2) Be aware that there are now six parts to the new Ranch Horse Program. One of the biggest changes is the Ranch Horse Showmanship Class. There will no longer be a Ranchmanship class; instead members will compete in a showmanship class designed for Ranch Horses. The knowledge and I.D. portion of what used to be Ranchmanship, will now be a separate class/event.

Don’t let these changes surprise you later on, take the winter to study up and familiarize yourself with the new program.

Also new for 2011……Christina Bates and Heidi Webb are your new Ranch Horse Superintendents! Suzie Page and Cheri Kennedy have done a terrific job building this program to what it is today, and handling the operations of it at fair! They both are ready for a break however and have passed the torch onto Christina and Heidi. All four of these women deserve our thanks for their dedication to our program! It will be an exciting new year and I can’t wait to get started!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the ranch horse program, please don’t hesitate to contact Karissa!

KD

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**Scuttlebuns 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show**

**Where:** Saturday, March 5th  
**Where:** Washington Co Fairgrounds, Hillsboro  
**Registrations:** 8:00 am—9:00 am  
**Cost:** Showmanship $3.50, Conformation $2.00  
Cloverbuds Show & Tell $3.50

For more information call Noreen Lanphier at 503-324-9101.

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**Critter Romp**

**When:** Saturday, March 5th  
**Where:** Adec Bldg, Yamhill Co Fairgrounds

More information and registration available at our website: www.deschutes4h.com or you can contact John Nyberg at 971-832-0777.

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**Central District OHSET Dates**

All at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo

February 11–13, 2011  
March 25-27, 2011  
April 15-17, 2011
First, some background on Western Gaming. As the Western Gaming program spread statewide many counties (including Deschutes) chose to award ribbons based on the correctness of the pattern rather than on the actual time. For example a rider trotting through the barrel course correctly without knocking over any barrels, would receive a Blue Ribbon under our current county rules. This recognition system gave riders a chance to try out the new program and focus on correctness, before asking their horse for speed.

As the program continued to grow and the member’s skill level and ability increased, time benchmarks for ribbons were set. The model preferred by our state organization and used by most counties, is based solely on the time of the pattern run (equipment knockdowns are awarded time penalties which are included in the participant’s time).

Deschutes County is considering adopting 1 of 2 proposals.

1) A hybrid model. This proposal is for Junior level participants to receive ribbons based on the same model we have been using, i.e. a clean run earns a Blue Ribbon, while Intermediates and Seniors would move to the state’s model of awarding the ribbons based on the exhibitors time. OR

2) Create a walk trot and novice class (1 combined class) that would be awarded using our current model, and have all of our age division classes be awarded based on the state’s model.

Why, you ask? This would bring our Western Gaming recognition model more in line with the rest of our horse program. In the current system earning a Blue Ribbon in Western Games can be done at a walk as long as the pattern is correct. While taking it slow and not overriding your horse or your abilities is certainly a correct training and educational method, it is not the “Blue Ribbon” standard performance that we expect to recognize. By expecting our members to put in training time prior to fair, and setting attainable time benchmarks for them, we will be encouraging participants to better themselves and thus raising the bar for competition. Moving to this time based model won’t take anything away from our members who “just want to have fun”. Western games will continue to be just as fun and open for all, as it always has been: quality of fun isn’t based on the ribbon color anyway!

Before this decision is final, we would appreciate your feedback! If you have thoughts or comments, please e-mail or call Karissa. We would also like to invite you to the next Horse Advisory meeting; our next meeting is Tuesday, January 11th in the North Sister Building at 6:00 PM.

KD

**Nutcracker Help!**

The Nutcraker is fast approaching. We need members to help serve cookies and drinks during intermission at the Nutcracker performances December 4th and 5th at Bend High School. There is an afternoon and evening performance on Saturday, and an afternoon performance on Sunday.

This is the final fundraiser to help with the National Horse Teams trip to Kentucky and they could really use some extra hands!!!!!!! It is a pretty easy way to help out and fulfill a community service requirement at the same time. It only takes a couple hours, and there is no baking required! If you can help, please contact Christina Bates (541) 419-1055 or garettbates@aol.com to sign up and find out more details.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of this team and its fundraising efforts!

KD
MOVING?

Don’t miss a single issue of Over the Clover. Fill out the form below and return it to OSU Extension Service, P O Box 1251, Redmond OR 97756 now! If you are a new subscriber, please enclose $10 payable to DCLA (Deschutes County 4-H Leaders Association).

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