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ST. PAT'S CORONATION SCHEDULED

Our annual 4-H Council fund-raiser, the St. Pat's King & Queen Coronation, will be held Saturday, March 19, at the Union Middle School. A map will be included in your March newsletter. We will crown our 2005 king and queen, recognize the poster art contest winners, present county project medals and certificates, and top the evening off with a family dance, including line and circle dances led by Dave Hileman, 4-H Youth Specialist. Plan now to attend our 2005 St. Pat's coronation and dance.

JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Our Junior 4-H Public Speaking Contest will be held in conjunction with the Union Optimist Speaking Contest. This cooperative effort provides additional opportunities for our junior speakers. The date for the contest is still being determined, but it is usually in mid to late February at one of the Union schools.

Speeches must not be less than 4 minutes, or longer than 5 minutes in length. The theme for the contest is "My Hero is...". All speeches must begin with that phrase.

The contest is for young people who have not reached their 16th birthday by Jan. 1, 2005.

The Optimists will provide medals for the top speakers, and prizes for all participants. The winner of the contest will have a chance to compete for a \$1500.00 scholarship. In addition, our top two 4-H speakers 13 or younger by Jan. 1, 2005 will have a chance to represent us at the State Public Speaking contest in September. Please let me know if you are interested and I will forward information as soon as it is available.

SHOOTING SPORTS CERTIFICATION

The next state-wide Shooting Sports Leader Certification workshop will be held April 8-10 at Camp JoOta near Macon, Mo. The Franklin County 4-H Council will cover the registration fee for anyone who wishes to be certified to lead a shooting sports project. Contact the University of Mo. Extension Center for a registration form. Registration forms will need to be completed by early March.

TRIP SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

4-H Council trip scholarships for the Kansas City 4-H Global Conference were awarded to Jennifer Beste, Andrea Carey, Susan Voss, and Beau Williams. Jon Mayer will also be attending the conference, March 9-12 in Kansas City.

4-H Council trip scholarships for the State 4-H Teen Conference were awarded to Lauren Hileman, Sam Hellebusch, Andrea Wesche, Adam Beste, Jessica Mueller, Jessica Buenemann, Kyla Nieder, A-Kay Meyer, Joey Humphrey, and Aaron Jackson. State Teen Conference will be held in Columbia, January 29-30.

SULLIVAN FAIR DATES

Hog tagging: March 12, 10 a.m. to noon.

Lamb tagging: March 12, 10 a.m. to noon.

All will be held at the Meramec Community Fair Grounds in Sullivan. Contact Sue Koch, (573) 627-3359 for more information.

WASHINGTON FAIR DATES

Steer Tagging: February 26, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Hog Tagging: April 23, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Lamb Tagging: April 23, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Dairy Tagging: April 23, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Contact the Washington Town and Country Fair at (636) 239-2715 for complete information.

LIVESTOCK SHOW CLINICS

A beef breaking and showing clinic will be held on Saturday, March 26 beginning at 9:00 a.m. On May 7, a Pork Quality Assurance workshop will be held at 9 a.m. and a fair preparation clinic for all species will be held at 11 a.m. All will be held at the Washington Fair Grounds.

SHARE THE FUN SCHEDULED

Franklin County Share The Fun will be held Saturday, April 16 at the Beaufort Elementary School. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. It might help clubs to be aware that acts do not have to be original, that is, they do not have to be invented or written by club members or leaders.

WASHINGTON TOWN AND COUNTRY FAIR SCHOLARSHIPS

Washington Town and Country Fair Livestock Scholarship applications are due March 31. Members who are currently in their senior year of high school and have ever exhibited any species of livestock at the Washington Fair can apply for the scholarships. The scholarships may be used toward obtaining a four-year college degree, two-year associate degree, or for a one-year intensive technical program. Applications are available from the Washington Area Chamber of Commerce, (636) 239-2715, from your school counselor's office, or the Washington Fair web site:

www.washmofair.com

WASHINGTON FAIR TO BRING BACK RATE OF GAIN CONTEST

The Washington Town and Country Fair will bring back the rate of gain contest for the 2005 youth steer beef show. This is a result of the generosity of Roger and Doris Koch, who will sponsor the contest. Watch your 4-H newsletters for more details.

2005 FAIR DATES

June 23-25	Meramec Community Fair (Sullivan)
July 6	Franklin County Exhibit Day
July 7-10	Franklin County Youth Fair (Union)
July 8-9	New Haven Community Fair
July 27-30	Gasconade County Fair (Owensville)
Aug. 3-7	Washington Town and Country Fair
Aug. 11-21	Missouri State Fair - Sedalia

HOST A JAPANESE TEEN
Applications Due February 18!

4-H offers opportunities for families to host a Japanese teen, age 12-16, or an adult advisor, for one month during the summer through the 4-H/LABO exchange program. Since we now live in a global world, providing your young people with a person-to-person global and cultural experience is a great way to help them see "how differently we are all the same".

LABO is a Japanese club designed to teach the English language. Each summer several Labo members age 12-16 travel to Missouri to stay with 4-H families for one month so that they can practice what they have learned. We have had several LABO exchange members in Franklin County over the years, and all have had very positive experiences.

The delegates all speak some English. I encourage you to consider being a LABO host family. Contact the Extension Center for more information, or for a host family application. The delegates are usually in Missouri from mid-July to mid-August.

FARM CREDIT SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Farm Credit Services of Missouri offer up to 35 scholarships of \$1000 to eligible Missouri High School seniors. The scholarships are only available to dependents of a Farm Credit Services of Missouri customer. Scholarship details and forms are available from the University of Mo. Extension Center, or from a Farm Credit Services office (there is one in Union).

FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIPS

The Franklin County Farm Bureau will again offer college scholarships to high school seniors. Applications are available from the Franklin County University of Mo. Extension Center, high school counselors, or the Franklin County Farm Bureau office (216 S. Church, Union). Call the Franklin County Farm Bureau for additional information at (636) 583-3735. Applications must be completed by 1.

**STATE 4-H HORSE JUDGING &
HORSE JUDGING CLINIC- April 9**
Registrations due February 28

The State 4-H Horse Judging Contest and the new Horse Judging Clinic will be held Saturday, April 9, at the Trowbridge Livestock Pavilion on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia. Any 4-H member who wishes to participate may do so. Juniors and seniors who would like to represent the county should contact the University of Missouri Extension Center by February 28. Members or their clubs are responsible for the \$15.00 registration fee. Members can participate in the contest, or if they would like to learn more about Horse Judging they can participate in the clinic. A member will not be able to participate in both.

Parents and members who take part in the Horse Judging Clinic are in for a treat. The clinic will be presented by Jon Wolf, from Blackhawk Community College. Jon is a nationally recognized collegiate judging coach, but can still give down-to-earth, easy to understand information.

Members and parents must register for both the judging and the clinic by February 28. Horse Project families will receive a special letter about the event.

**STATE FAIR REQUIRES NOSE PRINTING
OF STEERS AND LAMBS**

Nose printing of market steers, lambs, and meat goats is required by the Missouri State Fair. Nose prints must be certified by Extension staff and vocational agriculture instructors at a joint nose print session. Beef nose prints are due in the State Fair Office by March 15, 2005 and lambs and meat goats are due June 15, 2005. Legible nose prints will be required for an animal to be eligible to compete in a championship class.

This means that you must let me know very soon if you intend to show market lambs or steers at the Missouri State Fair.

COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP

The Franklin County Cattlemen's Association is offering two \$500 scholarships. To be eligible to apply, students must be in their senior year of high school, and have a beef project or be involved in beef promotion activities. Applicants must plan to work toward a four-year degree, two year associates degree, or a one-year intensive technical program in an accredited institution. Applicants' parents must be residents of Franklin County, current members of the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association, and must have been a member of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association for two years prior to the application deadline.

Contact a Franklin County Cattlemen's member, or the University of Missouri Extension Center for an application. Application deadline is April 15.

HELP PLAN ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT

Adults and teens interested in helping to plan 4-H Achievement night are invited to a planning meeting, Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m. at the Scenic Regional Library in Union. Contact the University of Mo. Extension Center if you need directions.

4-H DAY WITH THE CARDINALS

Enclosed is information, and a ticket order form for our 2005 4-H Day With The Cardinals. Please note the opportunity for 4-H members, parents, alumni, and friends to come early and spend some time on the Busch Stadium field, and even get a photo while standing in the Cardinal dugout! Each year we have 2000 or more Missouri and Illinois 4-Hers at the event.

Also note that ticket orders must be postmarked by March 28.

Be sure to check out the great prizes available in the scholarship raffle.

How To Make Sure Your Seats are with Other Franklin County 4-Hers

In order to make sure your seats are with another family, or with a club or county group, all the forms must be sent in one envelope. So, you can send your order in the same envelope with another family, or you can get your ticket order and payment to the Franklin County University of Mo. Extension Center by **4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 26**. We will then send all the orders in one envelope to assure that we have a Franklin County section.

4-H POSTER ART CONTEST

4-H members should begin now to plan for the 2005 4-H Poster Art contest. To enter members make a poster to illustrate the contest theme. Posters are judged in age categories, and cash prizes are awarded to the top three posters in each age group. Everyone who enters receives a ribbon and all the posters are displayed at the St. Pat's Coronation for everyone to see.

Look to the flier in this newsletter for more information about the contest. Parents can help their young people brainstorm ideas for the theme, and think through a design. Then get out of the way and let the creativity begin!

Some 4-H Clubs will even bring poster board and drawing supplies to a club meeting and let the kids start their posters at the meeting. The same thing could be done by handing out paper and pencils and having the kids sketch out their ideas that they can then go home and make into a poster.

We will be sending Club Leaders a copy of "Making Posters", a simple guide to making effective posters. Club leaders might want to give this to a volunteer and let them give a short poster making presentation at the January or February meeting. Additional copies of the booklet are available at the University of Extension Center .

Posters are due in the Franklin County University of Mo. Extension Center by March 4.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

A great web site to visit for your 4-H information is the new and improved:

www.4husa.org

4husa.org is a comprehensive resource for 4-H information and an interactive online 4-H community. Here kids can connect with other youth to share stories and get new ideas. 4-Hers who register can create their own blog, chat with other 4-H members on message boards, upload photos to the Photo Gallery, and even get a 4-HUSA.org email address. This is the official site "for, by, and about 4-H youth in the United States."

MISSOURI QUAIL ACADEMY

The Missouri Quail Academy is a conservation training program for high school students completing their freshmen or sophomore year. Participants undergo extensive training in quail biology, ecology, and the human dimensions of wildlife conservation. Instruction will also be provided in public speaking, leadership, and critical thinking. There is no fee for this program. Applications and more information are available from the Extension Center or at the Missouri Dept. of Conservation web site:

www.missouriconservation.org

(Look under Conservation Programs.)

Applications be returned to academy officials by March 1. Students can choose to attend one of two 2005 Quail Academy sessions: d June 19-24 or July 17-22. Both will be held at Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri. Twenty-five teens will be accepted for each session.

MISSOURI QUAIL ACADEMEY PROVIDES FREE GRADUATE HOURS FOR TEACHERS

Five teachers are chosen to serve as Covey Leaders (chaperons and assistants) at the Missouri Quail Academy. Covey Leaders not only learn the latest conservation techniques, but also receive two free graduate credits. Teacher applications are available at the Extension Center or the web site listed above.

CLOVER KIDS DAY CAMP SCHEDULED

Clover Kids day camp will be held Saturday, June 18 in Union. Watch for details in future 4-H newsletters.

SPORTFISHING LEADER CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP PLANNED

The next opportunity to become certified as a 4-H Sportfishing leader will be April 2-3. The workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Windermere Conference Center in Roach, Mo. (near Camdenton). Anyone interested in becoming certified should contact the Extension Center so we can get registration information to you as we receive it. The Franklin County 4-H Council will pay the \$40 registration fee for volunteers who attend the certification workshop.

CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Key Award Winner: Tonya Luecke

I Dare You Award Winners: Tonya Luecke, and Beau Williams

Distinguished Service Award: Jane Van Leer and Marilyn Eckelkamp.

Alumni Award Winners: Tyann Marcink and Clara Brown.

Friend of 4-H Awards: Gerry Counts and the Church of St. Francis

William Humprey Memorial Community Service Award: Aaron Wesche

Letters to Leaders Winners:

Age 8-10 Emily Bishop to Marilyn Eckelkamp

Age 10-11 - Rachel Buenemann to Lisa Bangert

Age 12-13 - Aaron Wesche to Neal Beste

Age 14+ - Jennifer Beste to Tony Gildehaus

And all the other members who wrote a thank you note to a volunteer leader.