Dear 4-H Families:

This issue finds us in the midst of county fairs and preparing for Ozark Empire Fair, Missouri State Fair and Regional Achievement Day. I want to take this opportunity to remind us all what achievement days and fairs are all about. The following is an article from the Greene County 4-H newsletter in 2006. Thanks to Byron Morrison and Becky Fay for this great information.

RAISING BLUE RIBBON 4-H'ERS

“The real purpose of 4-H is about rearing Blue Ribbon Kids. In 4-H we’ve had a long history of youth as well as adults striving to make their best better, not only for themselves but for others in the program as well. Whether the prop is a camera, a cow or a cookie, the ultimate goal is to help that young person become the best ‘person’ they can become. Four-H is for the kids. If their photo or calf or no bake cookies wins first place, that’s fine. If it doesn’t, that may be even better. With the help and encouragement of their parents, leaders and others the youngster with the red or white ribbon has the opportunity to grow and learn what they can excel at and what they aren’t as good in and they can decide in which areas they want to put their time and talents to work. For some the blue ribbon says, we know all we need to know. There is no reason to strive to do better. Fairs, shows and contests give everyone the opportunity to strive to do their best, to learn to cooperate as well as compete, to express their views and concerns and to get along with others in the process. Have you noticed how much like life a fair is? You come on the scene, you participate in some way, you have successes and not so successful experiences and then, it is over. The difference is, there will be another fair; another opportunity to participate. We only have this one life, are we making it a blue ribbon life for ourselves and for those that follow after us? I hope you plan to enjoy the summer with your children and the many opportunities 4-H provides to share “Blue Ribbon” youth and adult learning experiences.”

I also encourage you to read an article from Raised Right in a Barn called “Losing is More Important than Winning.” You can find the article here: https://raisedrightinabarn.wordpress.com/2015/07/08/losing-is-more-important-than-winning
Or find the link on our Lawrence and Greene County 4-H Facebook pages.

We all like to be considered the winner, but winning comes in different forms and for each of us. As adults we need to do our part to help our kids develop a winning attitude and sense of accomplishment, no matter what color the ribbon might be.

Helping you develop Blue Ribbon youth,

Karla Deaver
4-H Youth Specialist

“The skills learned cannot be outgrown by the color ribbon awarded. We are certainly to seek away a champion in our hearts... for we know the principles that are carried with us the rest of our lives.”
OZARK EMPIRE FAIR INFORMATION

Congratulations to all those who entered small exhibits at your county fair! If you received a blue ribbon on your exhibit, it is eligible for Ozark Empire Fair. All OEF tags will be done by Janet and I in the Lawrence County Extension office. If you are a Lawrence County member, please bring your items to the Extension office in Mt. Vernon no later than Monday, July 27 at 3 pm. This is to accommodate baked goods and garden produce. Other exhibits may be dropped off at any time between now and then.

If you are a Greene County member, please plan to drop off your exhibits at the E-Plex at Ozark Empire Fairgrounds on Tuesday, July 28, between 8 am and 1 pm. You will be asked to enter gate 10 (the livestock gate) and park directly behind the E-Plex and enter the door marked 4-H. If this time does not work for you, please contact me and we will work out another time or location.

Clover Kids may choose two exhibits to display at Ozark Empire Fair. Please bring those items at the same time.

Each 4-H member has the opportunity to have two items chosen to go on to MO State Fair. With the exception of a few project areas (cakes, photography, and scrapbooking) there are no limits in specific project areas. I will be choosing items from those that receive blue ribbons at OEF to go on to MO State Fair. If you have more than two items that can be chosen, I will communicate with you to determine which exhibits to send on. These will be re-tagged at OEF, packed and taken to MO State Fair. Exhibits will be available after MO State Fair ends August 23rd. We typically get exhibits back the day after the fair ends.

Members with demonstrations that qualify for MO State Fair or Ozark Empire Fair have been contacted directly. However, if you need additional information or assistance registering, please contact me at the Extension office in Mt. Vernon. I am happy to help!

REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Regional Achievement day is scheduled for Monday, August 3, at Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield. If you participated in a county event qualifying you for regional achievement day, you should have received an email from me with specific information. If you have not received this information, please contact me as soon as possible. We do have a sponsor for a limited number of tickets again this year. We are hoping to have another banner event, so please let me know if you can participate.

REGIONAL LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

This year we will be having a regional livestock judging contest in cooperation with Ozark Empire Fair and the Gold Buckle Extravaganza. The event will be held Saturday, July 25, 8:30 a.m. at Ozark Empire Fairgrounds. No pre-registration is required, but at sign up please indicate if you would like to participate in the 4-H portion of the event. Those who wish to participate will need to give oral reasons. This is an excellent practice opportunity for all those planning to compete in the state contest in September!
STATE FAIR INFORMATION

Clover Kids Day at the State Fair

A special day for Clover Kids (youth ages 5-7) will be featured in the 4-H building in Sedalia on August 16. All 4-H Clover Kids and their families are invited to attend this event.

Clover Kids can:
- Display an item they have made
- Receive a State Fair participation ribbon
- Give a demonstration
- Participate in arts/crafts, science and other fun learning activities
- See cool 4-H stuff displayed in the building

All you have to do is show up, no registration is needed. Don’t miss out on the fun! 😊

STATE FAIR 4-H EVENTS
* 4-H youth demonstrations (General & Working) - 8/13-23, starting at 9:30am

- Specialty contests
  - 8/13 Pork Contest
  - 8/15 International Foods Contest
  - 8/16 Egg Contest
  - 8/17 Chicken BBQ Contest
  - 8/22 AgriMissouri Foods Contest

*Other special 4-H events
(All in State Fair 4-H Building unless noted otherwise)

- 8/13 - 17 Show Me Wares (Mizzou Central Building)
- 8/14, 12 - 1pm Sportfishing activities
- 8/15, 2:30 - Let's Talk Livestock demo
- 8/15, 3pm - Hall of Fame (State Fair Community College)
- 8/16, 9am - 3pm - Clover Kids Day
- 8/16, 1pm - Let's Talk Livestock demo
- 8/17 4-H/FFA Dog Show
  (Matthewson Center)
- 8/19, 9am-3pm - Robots in the Building
- 8/20, 9a-3p Afterschool Network activities
- 8/23, 1pm Let's Talk Livestock demo
- Daily, 4pm, Screenings from Natl. 4-H Film Festival, inside Electric Theatre

Shooting Sports Leader Certification
August 28-30
LifeChange Camp
Clinton, MO

The "fall" Shooting Sports leader workshop has been moved to late summer. Last year, the camps we had been using for workshops were closed; which left us scrambling for sites that could accommodate our needs. This time around the workshop will be at LifeChange Camp near Clinton. Registration will be via 4-H Online and is anticipated to open July 15. Workshop classes will close when the class size limits are reached and no later than August 15. Additional information, when available, will be posted to the 4-H Shooting Sports web site: http://4h.missouri.edu/go/projects/shootingsports/workshop.htm

Fall Contests

A number of fall contests are just days away from online registration via 4-H Online. Those contests and their dates are:

September 12    State Livestock Judging Contest
                Horse Public Speaking
                Horse Demonstrations

September 19-20 State Shooting Sports Events
September 26    State Fashion Revue
October 24      State Public Speaking Contest

Watch 4-H Online or our Facebook pages for updates!

Currently open in 4-H online for registration:

State Fair Demonstrations
State Trap/Archery Shoot (August 22-23)
Western Heritage (both National and State)
Show-Me Wares
Clover Kids Corner

Clover Kids Corner provides an activity, information or other materials that Clover Kids leaders can use in planning and implementing experiences that introduce five to seven-year olds to the 4-H concept of learning by doing.

Through Clover Kids clubs, children learn how to get along, share, work in groups, explore their interests, and build self-confidence. Each Clover Kids Corner provides an activity, information or other materials that Clover Kids leaders can use in planning and implementing experiences that introduce five to seven-year olds to the 4-H concept of learning by doing.

**Nature Scavenger Hunt**

Supplies: paper (index card works great for this); pencil or pen or marker; small bags (paper or plastic)

Directions: Make a list of items for youth to search. You can include leaves, flowers, pebbles, moss and other outdoor items. You can include insects and animals on the list but instruct them to check them off instead of taking them. Give them small bags and a time limit to go exploring. Teach them to recognize poisonous plants, such as poison ivy, mushrooms, and stinging nettle; tell them not to touch them. Have people share their favorite items with the group.

Ozark Empire Fair and Missouri State Fair information inside!