Dear 4-H Families:

Our county 4-H fairs and achievement days are over, and now it is time to think about our regional fair and achievement day. Ozark Empire Fair provides an opportunity for you to showcase your blue ribbon efforts for the year! Share your accomplishments with others by exhibiting your work at Ozark Empire Fair. See the details on page 2 about exhibit drop off and regional achievement day.

Other regional and state events are on the horizon as well. Horse and livestock events, state 4-H contests, and others, provide 4-H members and volunteers the opportunity to show the non 4-H world who we are and what we are about. Keep this in mind: every time you show your animal, compete in an event, or wear your 4-H shirt, you represent not only yourself, but your family, your club, your county, your region and your state. We want the world to know what we already know: that 4-H members and their families have the best character, sportsmanship and herdsmanship! We are gracious winners, considerate losers, and positive role models for all those around us. You have heard me say this before, but it is really true: someone is always watching. The article below is a reminder about what our true purpose is. Thanks to Byron Morrison and Becky Fay for this article.

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 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.” (continued on page 2)
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 24 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 25, 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 20th. We typically get exhibits back the day after the fair ends.

Members with demonstrations that qualify for MO State Fair or Regional Achievement Day will be 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!

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 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 Development Specialist

REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Regional Achievement day is scheduled for Monday, July 31, at Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield. If you participated in a county event qualifying you for regional achievement day, you will be receiving an email from me with specific information. If you have not received this information within the next week, please contact me as soon as possible. We are hoping to have another banner event, so please let me know if you can participate.

SAVE THE DATE: LAWRENCE COUNTY 4-H 5K SET FOR 11/18

Are you ready to get your run on? Mark your calendar for the 6th annual Lawrence County 4-H 5k, set for Saturday, November 18. This year, we will be going a little retro military and channeling our inner MASH 4077! Registration details will be available soon. Hope you can join us!
STATE FAIR DEMONSTRATIONS

Did you receive a blue ribbon on your demonstration at your county achievement day or personal presentations day? If so, you are eligible to register to give your demonstration in the State 4-H building at the Missouri State Fair. This applies to all demonstrations, including working demonstrations.

The State Fair 4-H Building Demonstration and Contest registration will be done through the 4HOnline System this year. Demonstrators get to pick their own time this year! Contest times are determined by the contest sponsor and confirmed in a letter to families on or shortly after August 1st. An online training site has been developed to help families know how to register their eligible 4-H member for State Fair Demonstrations and Contests. The online, self-paced training site includes a Resources link with downloadable help files. There is a short, one-page guide and also an expanded guide with screenshots.

The State Fair 4-H Building registration will be open in 4HOnline beginning April 19th and go until August 1st. We know there are local fairs that go beyond August 1st, so if your 4-H member needs to register for a State Fair 4-H Building Demonstration or Contest after that date, contact Patty Hudnut at hudnutp@missouri.edu as soon as possible. She will manually enter the youth’s information in 4HOnline and then notify county staff that it is ready for final review and approval. Beginning August 1st, the State 4-H office will send confirmation letter to each approved State Fair 4-H Building demonstrator or contest participant. The letter will contain important un/loading and parking information along with the specific date and time for his demonstration or contest. In addition, a list of demonstration dates and times will be posted to the Missouri 4-H State Fair page at http://4h.missouri.edu/go/events/statefair/ and updated until the State Fair begins on August 10th.

STATE 4-H DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST

4-H members age 8-18 are invited to participate in the State 4-H Dairy Judging contest, scheduled for Saturday, August 19, in Sedalia at the Missouri State Fair. Judging will take place in the MFA Arena. Registration will begin at 8 am and the contest will begin at 8:30 am.

There is no registration fee, and no pre-registration is required. Prizes will be awarded in the age divisions of 8-10, 11-13 and 14 and over. Contestants will judge six classes and give two sets of oral reasons. For more information, contact Karla Deaver at deaverk@missouri.edu or 417-466-3102.

STATE SHOOT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The State 4-H Shooting Sports contest will be held over two weekends and at four separate locations (see below). It will be important to note these locations and distances during your registration of each entry in the contest. Registrations are non-refundable.

- August 26: Trap – Missouri Trapshooters Association, 51 Trapshooters Road, Linn Creek, MO 65052
- August 26: Archery 300 – Prairie Grove Shotgun Sports, 1420 County Road 276 Columbia, MO 65202
- August 27: Archery 300 – Prairie Grove Shotgun Sports, 1420 County Road 276 Columbia, MO 65202
- August 27: Skeet – Gateway Gun Club, 13547 Missouri Bottom Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044
- September 16: Participant may register for 2 events on Saturday. (3 events if one is Hunting Skills) Air Pistol/Rifle; Archery 600, Smallbore Pistol/Rifle, Hunting Skills - Prairie Grove Shotgun Sports, 1420 County Road 276 Columbia, MO 65202
- September 17: Archery 3D, Muzzleloading - Prairie Grove Shotgun Sports, 1420 County Road 276 Columbia, MO 65202
- September 17: Sporting Clays – River Hills Sporting Clays, 22701 Rocheport Road, Boonville, MO 65233

A few registration tips:
When registering for the state shoot a few things to help make it easier.

For August: If you are shooting Trap on Saturday and are shooting both Singles and Doubles remember to give yourself plenty of time between events on the registration approximately 2 hours between singles and doubles. If you are shooting Skeet on Sunday this same timing would apply 2 hours between singles and doubles If you are shooting Archery you can sign up for more than one class but cannot do so at the same time i.e.: compound release and recurve with accessories cannot be shot at the same time. You can shoot them at different times or days but not at the same time. You cannot shoot archery and shotgun on the same day. If you sign up for trap on Saturday you cannot shoot archery on Saturday but you can shoot on Sunday. If you sign up for archery on Sunday you cannot shoot skeet on Sunday.

For September: You can sign up for 3 events on Saturday if one of these is hunter skills i.e: rifle 8am line and archery 1pm line you could do hunter skills in between. One thing to be aware of is the time it takes to shoot the events you sign up for and allow plenty of time in between to get from one range to another. Most lines run about an hour but some can take up to 4 hours to complete. And some are only available at certain times On Sunday you can sign up for 2 events if one of them is muzzleloader but you cannot sign up for sporting clays and 3-D archery. If you are shooting archery or sporting clays with muzzleloader signup for the earliest start of either sporting clays or archery and the last line for muzzleloader.
Clover Kids Corner

Through Clover Kids clubs, children learn how to get along, share, and 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.

Fun with Water
Invite children to play outside with water. Remind them to bring a swimsuit and towel!

Ideas include:
- Water balloon toss
- Water painting - provide paint brushes and water in a bucket. Encourage children to "paint" with the water and watch how the water evaporates in the warm sun. Paint rocks, trees, the sidewalk, anything!
- Car wash - children can bring and wash toy cars and vehicles
- Water sprinklers
- Spray bottles
- Frozen water - ice cubes are refreshing and feel good as they melt in your hands on a hot summer day!
- Watermelon - a fun snack after water play activities!

Save the Date
August 26  State Livestock Judging
Aug 27-30*  Horse Judging Contest
September 30  State Public Speaking
October 7  State Fashion Revue

Currently open for registration in 4-H Online:
- State Livestock Judging Contest
- State Fair Demonstrations
- Western Heritage and Cowboy Shooting
- Volunteer Training
- State Horse Judging Contest
- Shooting sports leader certification workshop

Registration open through 4-H Fair Entry:
- State Shooting Sports Events