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CLOVER CONNECTION

4-H NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006

Volume 06

Issue 08



4-H Awards Banquet

And a special thank you to Katie Marcoux, President of the Honor Club, who did a great job assisting with the award presentations.

(Awards continued on next page)



Tuesday, August 29th, Okaloosa 4-H celebrated the past year with our Awards Banquet at the Crestview Extension Office. We had a wonderful gathering of 4-H'ers and their families, volunteers, and many supporters. Farm Bureau Board of Directors very generously sponsored the event this year. We really appreciate their continued support of our 4-H Program. The Honor Club members did a great job decorating, serving the meal and helping put on the awards program. I would like to thank Gerald Edmondson, our County Extension Director and Scott Jackson, our Sea Grant Agent, for all their help preparing the meal and cleaning up afterward. I would also like to thank everyone else who stayed and helped after the Banquet.



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*Now on to the
awards
presentations....*

Youth Honors went to:

Record Book Winners

Junior— Kayla Taylor

Senior— Katie Marcoux

4-H Medallion Awards

Head — Sarah Ward

Heart — Maggie Bullard

Hands — Rebekah Minear

Health — Erin Grundel

Club of the Year

Rocky Riders - Jan Mullin, Leader

Fred Barber College Scholarship

Katie Marcoux

Adult Honors went to:

4-H Alumni

Kim Farris

Friend of 4-H

Okaloosa Home and Community Education Council

Leader of the Year

Sheila Mooers

Special Appreciation

Farm Bureau Board of Directors



NEWSLETTER
SAVVY

Every year 4-H'ers need to re-enroll (or new members must enroll) for the new 4-H year beginning September 1st. If you are between the ages of 5 and 18 as of September 1, 2006 and live in Okaloosa County, you are invited to join our 4-H family. If you don't fill out a 4-H enrollment form and turn it in to your club leader or the 4-H office during the month of September, you will miss out on the many fun and education activities 4-H has to offer, and you will not receive the **Clover Connection Newsletter** each month. Please make sure that you fill out all the information on your form accurately, completely and is easy to read. We want to be sure you receive your newsletter and other announcements during the year. If you prefer to receive your newsletter by email send your name, club name and your email address to jheady@co.okaloosa.fl.us and we will begin sending your newsletter to you by email.

New Year Changes

2006-2007

Each year we strive to **"Make the Best Better."** This year, we have new 4-H age divisions, project record books will be easier to organize, and we will continue to focus on safe environments for our young people and recognizing them properly for their accomplishments.

Continue on to the next page to read more about these changes ...



4-H Has Four Age Divisions

Cloverbuds - 5 - 7 years of age

Intermediates - 11 - 13 years of age

Juniors - 8 - 10 years of age

Seniors - 14 - 18 years of age



Volunteer Screening

We are very dedicated to providing safe environments for our youth. This year, we are implementing a new volunteer screening process. In the past we screened all volunteers through a state wide sexual predator website. This year we will be using a national database called Choicepoint for screening. All volunteers who work directly with youth must be registered with us, this includes club organization leaders, project leaders and adult volunteers (including parents) who assist with club activities. The volunteer application form must be completely filled out and include the \$5.00 fee in order for us to conduct the screening process. (If paying by check, make it out to Okaloosa 4-H Fund.) **Applications need to be turned in to our office by September 29th.** Clubs may invite new volunteers to join our 4-H family anytime during the year. They will be required to complete the volunteer application, include the fee and we will conduct the screening. This is part of a statewide program that requires the new volunteer application and for every direct volunteer to be screened. Thank you for helping us implement this change smoothly.

Club Charters

Completing the Club Charter— The clubs that complete the Club Charter Form will be recognized at the Awards Banquet. The Club Charter is required! Clubs not completing the Club Charter will not be recognized as a 4-H Club and will not be authorized to use the 4-H Name or Emblem. This is a national 4-H rule that all 4-H must follow. Thank you to all of the clubs who have already completed the club charter. Leaders, don't forget to file your paperwork by September 29th.



Continuing Charters:

Just Kidding Goat Club	4-H Country Club
Holt Hooves and Halter Club	Sand' N' Spur 4-H Club
4-H Hot Wings Poultry Club	Horsefeathers 4-H Club

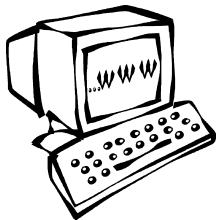
New Awards and Recognition Opportunity

The new Statewide Recognition opportunities are now available for 4-H members and clubs. We will be recognizing youth and clubs for achieving performance standards. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity please contact the 4-H Office and we will send you a list of the new standards and an award application.



Record Books

We will have a new format for putting together a record book. It will be easier to compile your records, and organize projects, especially if you are including more than one project in your record book. We will meet with clubs to go over the new format, leaders can call the 4-H Office and set up a time for us to come and talk to your club.



Outwit the Web Predators

I know that you have to be online sometimes and playing online can be fun, but there are some real dangers. You need to learn how to protect yourself, your friends and your family. Just because you've "talked" to someone online doesn't mean you know them. If you've never met, they could be some creepy adult. Here are some ways to outwit predators online.

Be creative when choosing a user name. Don't use information such as your name, age, school, and gender to create your user name. If you post pictures, either use drawings or edit it so it's not identifiable. For example, don't post a picture of yourself standing in front of your school sign. Predators would now have a picture of you and know where you go to school.

Do you know the danger signs?

- **Someone a lot older talking to you**
- **Catching them in a lie, especially about being younger**
- **Starting trouble between you and your family**
- **Too good to be true offers such as money, gifts, etc.**
- **Making you feel uncomfortable in any way**
- **Wanting personal information**



Predator's Journal

Even if you're careful about the information you put online, you may be surprised how easily predators can use a little information to find a lot more. Here's an example:



Lisa uses "TallGirl" as her username in a chatroom, where she receives a nasty message from "BobsOfFun." Smartly, she ignores it, but BobsOfFun searches the web for other TallGirl references.

He finds that same username in an old posting on another website about handbags, where she gives her email address to another teen interested in a certain brand of purse. The email ends with brooks-girls,edu, leading BobsOfFun to a Denver private school site.

A search on the school's site finds a picture of a fundraiser selling handbags, with a noticeably tall teen named Lisa Hammner in the caption. A search for Hammner in Denver finds one listing, including a phone and street address.

BobsOfFun now has TallGirl's name, address, phone number, school, email, picture and a specific interest.

(I will include more internet safety articles in future newsletters. This information was provided by the Polly Klaas Foundation.)



Sand N' Spur Club—“Hoofbeats at Sand-N-Spur” met at Sand-N-Spur Riding Club on August 17th. Our first meeting was an organizational meeting. We're combining two clubs—Sand N' Spur and Hoofbeats—so at our first meeting we introduced ourselves and stated our individual 4-H goals for the year. Katie Marcoux gave a brief overview of 4-H for all members. She discussed changes to the project book. She also explained the roles of the different officers. We will hold elections at our next meeting. We brainstormed on ideas for our Fair Booth, topics we would like to learn about this year, activities we would like to participate in, and new names for our club. Our next meeting will be September 12th.

Honor Club— the Honor Club will hold their first meeting of the year on September 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the 4-H Office in Crestview. We will be electing our new officers and planning activities for the year. Don't forget to mark your calendars!!!



September

- 1 New 4-H year begins. Remember to fill out a new registration form!
- 4 Holiday, 4-H Office closed
- 16 The Kids Asthma and Allergy Fair, Crestview High School, all day
- 19 Honor Club Meeting, Crestview 6:30 p.m.
- 29 Leaders—New year club forms are due today!

October

- 1-7 National 4-H Week
- 10 4-H Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Office, Crestview

November

- 3-12 North Florida Fair, Tallahassee
- 10 Holiday, 4-H Office closed
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday, 4-H Office closed

*“4-H is a community of young people...
across America... who are
learning leadership, citizenship
and life skills”*



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer G. Heady'.

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Visit our Website:

<http://okaloosa.ifas.ufl.edu>

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