Important Deadlines

Emerald Club: For junior and senior 4-H members interested in completing the Emerald Club application, beginning this year and in subsequent years, the form will be due January 15. If that date falls on a weekend, it should be in the Extension office by the close of the business day on the following Monday. To access the form, go to the county 4-H webpage.

Project Record Books: Due in the Extension office – January 9

Honor Club & Scholarship Applications: Due in the State 4-H office – January 15

NC 4-H Centennial Cookbook: Entries due in the state office – January 15

Cumulative Record Books: Due in the Extension office – February 20

Group Awards: Clubs submitting state theme scrapbook – March 2

Welcome to the Coastal Clovers 4-H Club!

Join me in welcoming our newest 4-H club, the Coastal Clovers. Volunteers Brenda Rocci and Jennie Busteed decided the time was right to take the plunge and introduce 4-H to youth who have not had the opportunity to join a club. Meeting in Morehead City, there numbers have quickly grown with 15-20 attending meetings. Keep up the good work! We look forward to you being a part of our 4-H family.

County Council Community Service

Carteret County 4-H Council will meet prior to the next meeting, January 20, to make neck pillows that will be delivered to the local assisted living facilities. If you would like to help, make plans to arrive by 2:30 PM. Even if you do not know how to sew you will be able to cut out patterns or stuff the pillows. Parents are encouraged to help.

The regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. Top items on the agenda are the election of the 2009 officers and Achievement Night discussion. Nominations were open during the December meeting. If you are interested in running for an office, check the county webpage for the bylaws and read the guidelines to run for office. Nominations from the floor will be open prior to voting.

Carolina Chocolate Festival

Once again Carteret County 4-H will be in charge of the Pudding Eating Contest at the festival on February 7-8. As in the past, the first 18 members to sign-up to work will be guaranteed to be on the schedule. A large portion of the profits from the event will be equally divided among those helping and deposited in your Cloverbucks account. Call today!

Centennial Committee

The next meeting for anyone interested in helping celebrate the Centennial of 4-H in will be January 15 beginning at 7:00 PM at the Extension office. This meeting is open to everyone, even if you haven’t attended any of the prior meetings.

The committee is planning a countywide ‘Kids Day’ open to all residents of Carteret County and not just 4-H members. Through this type of activity, youth of all ages will be attracted and the best part, they will learn about the power of 4-H and how they might become a part of a club. This event will require a lot of hands to help make the work lighter. We will ask clubs to be in charge of specific areas for the day. There are lots of great ideas that are being pursued and we are always looking for others to join in this endeavor. Please make plans to attend to give us your input.
Capitol Christmas Tree
This year’s US Capitol Christmas Tree has a 4-H connection. The tree was cut from Montana’s Bitterroot Forest, so Montana youth were invited to enter a drawing to travel to Washington DC and light the tree with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The winner was 4-H member Chris Gabrielson from Havre, MT. He proudly wore a 4-H shirt as he stood with Speaker Pelosi on the lawn of the Capitol to light the tree on December 2.

Chris and other Montana youth created the 5,000 ornaments for the tree from recycled materials. Montana 4-H members created 65% of the ornaments - some with the 4-H emblem.

The next day, a delegation of 4-H members, staff and parents from Maryland and Virginia participated in the unveiling of the official portrait of former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns. Members of 4-H and FFA were invited to take part in the special event on the Whitten Patio at USDA. Johanns was a 4-H member in Iowa and continued to be a strong supporter in Nebraska and during his term as USDA secretary. Johanns will return to Washington in 2009 as the junior senator from Nebraska.

State Postage Stamp Winner
The winner of our NC 4-H Centennial Postage Stamp Competition is Carley Williams, a Washington County 4-H'er. Over 40 original pieces of artwork were submitted for competition by 4-H'ers across the state. Look under ‘Centennial Celebration’ on our website for instructions to order.

Ice Cream Top Three Picks
With over 2,300 total votes, the 4-H Centennial Ice Cream Cone-test was a resounding success! The votes have been tallied, and the Cone-test Committee would like to congratulate the top three counties!!

(In ABC Order)
Gates – Clover Crunch: Chocolate Ice Cream with Caramel Crunch Pieces and Butterscotch Swirl
Johnston (SE District) – 100 S'More Years: Chocolate Ice Cream with Graham Cracker Pieces and Marshmallow Cream Swirl
Tyrrell – 4-H Campfire Delight: Graham Cracker Ice Cream with Hershey Bar Chunks and Marshmallow Cream Swirl

The NC State Creamery is hard at work ordering all the ingredients for our Official Taste Test in January. Winning counties will be invited to send a non-voting representative to the taste test press conference that is planned with Chancellor Oblinger, Dean Wynn, Director Ort and the tasting committee. Get your spoons ready! A March launch of the ice cream is scheduled.

4-H Passport
With the beginning of 2009, remember to inform your club leader that you would like to participate and receive your own passport booklet to become eligible for special recognition during Achievement Night. Each time you participate in an event, let your leader know and we will send the stickers for you to add to your book. There will be specific stickers for club, county, district and state events.

Leaders: Let me know how many members in your club need books and they will be delivered to you to distribute. The goal of the passport program is to promote the breath of the NC 4-H program. To visually show youth how many opportunities they have in our county, district and state program by means of recording their 4-H projects, activities, accomplishments, etc. with spotlight on 2009.

Newport Pig Cooking
Carteret County 4-H was fortunate enough to be selected as one of the organizations that will benefit from this year’s profits of the contest. With that comes the responsibility of committing to work throughout the event. One of our major tasks will be chopping barbecue – a lot of barbecue! This will require help from parents and volunteers. There will also be opportunities for the youth to help. Please mark your calendar for April 3-4 to lend a hand. Your son/daughter will profit in addition to the total 4-H program.

Reminder: Club reporters, email your club news to cindy_day@ncsu.edu or bring to the Extension office each month for inclusion in the following month’s newsletter.
Operation: Military Kids
Visual Arts Contest

Operation: Military Kids is sponsoring the first OMK Photography & Arts Contest, open to youth between 9-18 years old. Guidelines and entry forms are on the county webpage under Awards & Incentives. The entry deadline is April 30. Please read all of the information prior to submitting your entry.

Emerald Club
On December 20 the Emerald Club went to Raleigh to see the Nutcracker Ballet and the Museum of Natural Science.

Here they are pictured here with one of the dancers.

Here are some of them INSIDE a tree at the museum.

Celebrity Servers
Golden Corral, December 1

FROM THE AGENT:
There is definitely some truth to the old phrase, 'the older we get, the faster time flies'. It seems we are having two Christmases a year and before one event ends, we are planning to do it again! One of the best pieces of advice from the older generation is to slow down and enjoy each day as a new beginning. With this, I hope that each of you have a prosperous and productive new year and take time to enjoy your family and friends. We never know when they will be taken away, and life is too precious to lose with misdirected priorities.

I would also like to take this time to thank each adult who has given his or her time and talents to positively influence the life of a young person. To the 4-H’ers, I would like to compliment you for your accomplishments and for continually working to ‘make the best better’ through the influences of 4-H in your life.

Let us never lose sight of the mission of NC 4-H: To assist youth and adults in becoming competent, coping, and contributing members of a global society, developing essential life skills through planned “learn by doing” experiences. There is strength in numbers and through the continual growth of our county program, we each hold within ourselves the ability to change and influence tomorrow’s world.

Patricia Choum
Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. King, a Baptist Preacher and American Civil Rights Leader, preached non-violence and worked to bring about social, political and economic equality for African-American citizens. His eloquent pleas for racial justice in the 1950’s and 1960’s won the support of millions of people both black and white. He won the Nobel Peace prize in 1964 for leading the black struggle for equality through non-violence.

Dr. King rejected separatism and campaigned against poverty. He married Coretta Scott in 1953 and began his Civil Rights Crusade in 1955. He boycotted, marched, preached and conducted sit-in demonstrations in the pursuit of racial equality. Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 partly because of these efforts. He built a program of non-violence by combining Christian teachings, Thoreau's social ideas and Gandhi methods of non-violence. His life was constantly in danger. He was stabbed in New York City, stoned in Chicago and assassinated on April 4, 1968 by James Earl Ray.

August 28, 1963 Dr. King marched from the Washington monument to the Lincoln Memorial and delivered one of his most memorable speeches.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, posthumously in 1977 for his efforts in fighting prejudice. And in 1986 The United States Congress established a national holiday to honor Doctor King. It is held the third Monday in January.

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.