

The Clover Chronicle

Volume 5, Issue 1 January/February/March 2013

Message from Beth



4-H Agent Beth Davis, celebrating the Christmas season with son Troy, niece Teely, and sister Rebecca

First of all, let me wish you all a Happy New Year! January is a great time to start fresh with new beginnings and that's exactly what we will be doing this year. 2013 is the year of change in NC 4-H. Those of you who have been in 4-H for several years know that certain events take place at a particu-

lar time of the year. Well, not anymore! Everything is changing! So, in order for you to participate in all of the district and state level events and activities, we will need to shift many of our county events and activities so that we align with the state.

I'm sure many of you have heard the saying, "the only thing that stays the same is everything changes." This is very true! As I've said in my emails, I know that change is hard and can be painful. But sometimes you have to go through some adversity to really learn what's important. It pushes us outside of our comfort zone and forces us to think differently. These are skills that will benefit each of us, youth and adults alike.

I will admit to you that I've had my own doubts and anxiety about some of the

changes that are happening, so you are not alone. I just ask that you try to be flexible, understanding and encouraging during these transitions. Remember, I'm going through this with you. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please know that I am here to listen and will help in any way I can. That's my job!

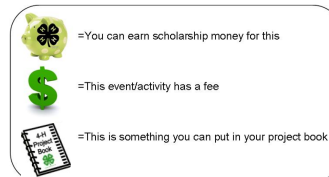
That being said, I again wish you a happy and healthy 2013. Make sure that throughout the year you use your head for clearer thinking, your heart to greater loyalty, your hands to larger service and your health for better living. In doing so, you will be a great asset to your club, your community, our country and our world.

Beth Davis

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Don't forget what these icons mean!



Project Record Books & Achievement Plans

due Tuesday, January 8 by County Council Meeting



We have moved the due date for Project Record Books and Achievement Plans up to **JANUARY 8th**. This is so that we can have them judged and ready to go by our 4-H Celebration Night. The forms for your Project Record Books and Achievement Plans can be found at the following website: <http://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu/categories/4-h-youth-development/>. Achievement Plans are listed under "Award Forms" and Project Record Books are listed under "Project Record Forms." Remember, your 4-H Age is how old you are as of January 1, **2012** (last year). If the form says January 1, 2013, that's because they've already updated the forms for this year. You (the 4-Her) are completing this project for the year of 2012, so that's why it asks for your age as of Jan. 1, 2012. If you need help with either of these items, please contact me and I can work with you. Or, you can schedule a time to come and meet with me individually. I am happy to help you make your best better!



If you are wondering why you should do a project record book, please see my "Message from Beth" from our previous newsletter. There are many positive reasons you should complete one!

Upcoming Events & Activities

County Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 8 at 6:30 pm



I hope that all of these new changes will inspire you all to attend our January County Council Meeting. This meeting is scheduled for **January 8 at 6:30 pm**. Before the meeting, starting at **4 pm**, there will be time set aside for 4-Hers to come in and work on Honor Club and Scholarship Applications. This is not a requirement in any way, but more of an opportunity to ask me questions about either of these items and for me to help you in completing these items. The County Council program will mainly be focusing on the changes that will be taking place. We will also have 4-H Curriculum Guides available for sale at discounted rates, so be sure to come and stock up for 2013! Project Record Books are due on **January 8th** and you can bring them to County Council and turn them in.

Honor Club & College Scholarship



Applications--DUE January 28

If you are a 4-Her who is interested in applying for NC 4-H Honor Club and/or a 4-H College Scholarship, those applications need to be turned into me by **Monday, January 28**. The NC 4-H Honor Club is the highest honor a NC 4-Her can achieve and recognizes those individuals who have had an exceptional 4-H career. To be eligible to apply for Honor Club, 4-Hers must be at least 16 years old as of January 1 and have been in 4-H for 3 or more years. They must complete the application (posted on our website) and submit it to me by **January 28**.

4-H College Scholarships are available to 4-Hers who are applying to college this fall. The application is posted on our website, and 4-Hers must complete the requirements and submit their applications by **January 28** to me. There is also a Scholarship Guide posted online with details about each scholarship offered and eligibility requirements.

If you are a 4-Her who is interested in either of these items, please let me know and I will be glad to assist you in completing these applications. I have set aside some time for those 4-Hers that would like to work on these applications before County Council. I will be available on January 8th, starting at 4 pm to help you. I am actually a member of the NC 4-H Honor Club, so I've gone through the application process myself. Good luck!

4-H Celebration Night & Talent Show

Thursday, February 7 @ 6 pm



This year, we are changing up Celebration Night, big time! Instead of Celebration Night being on a week-night, we are going to try something new and have it on **Thursday, February 7th at 6 pm**. We will have a potluck dinner, so everyone is invited to bring a dish. We are currently still searching for a location. Once we've found a venue, we will let you know via email. This is the time of year we set aside to celebrate all of the accomplishments you have achieved in 2012. We will recognize our Project Record Book winners as well as 4-Hers who have completed another level in their Achievement Plans. Additionally, we will install our 2013 County Council Officers.

Celebrate!

They are:

President--Courtney Eckmann

Vice President--Sarah Kenney

Secretary--Meaghan Gerringer

Reporter--Elizabeth Kenney & Alex Reagon

Each 4-Her will be recognized during the Celebration and there will be an area set up for 4-H Club pictures as well as individual pictures. So make sure you dress nicely! An online invitation will be sent through email so be sure to respond. We want to make sure we have plenty of seating and desserts! Come celebrate your 4-H success!

Additionally, we will be holding our **4-H Talent Show** at Celebration Night. This is so we can choose our two acts to send to District Activity Day. If you are interested in performing in the talent show this year, please complete the attached form by **January 28th**. You can perform in up to two acts and scholarship money will be awarded to those who participate. A list of guidelines are included on the form.

Livestock Shows



Due to the temporary nature of the Livestock Agent position at this time, we are encouraging those who want to participate in the Central Piedmont Junior Livestock Show to register independently. This is also a good opportunity to explore other livestock shows in our area. One show that I recommend participating in is the Clover Classic Livestock Show at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds in Winston-Salem. This show is March 16-17 and the main requirements are 1) no male animals, and 2) no nursing cows, does or ewes. If you are interested in showing in the Clover Classic Livestock Show, please let me know and I'll send you the registration packet. Registration is due February 28th. There is an entry fee of \$10 per head of cattle and \$5 per head of sheep/goats.

Upcoming Events & Activities (continued)

4-H Presentations

February 25-28



The 4-H Presentations Program is our public speaking component of 4-H. As a product of 4-H, I can honestly say that this is one of the MOST beneficial programs in 4-H. In just about anything you do in life, you will need to have public speaking skills. This year, since District Activity Day is being held much earlier, we will be doing our county level presentations in February. So, I suggest you get started now! To get started, just choose a topic you want to learn more about, narrow it down, do some research, write a speech, make a few posters, and PRACTICE!

The week of **February 25-28**, 4-Hers can make an appointment to come to the Extension Office and give their presentation. All you need to do is call or email and we'll set you up! I will be sending out a power point on how to do a 4-H presentation, and it will even have a link to a youtube video of a NC 4-Her giving a presentation. Additionally, I will send out a document with a listing of all the Presentation Categories and what they include. Please let me know if you have any questions. We can only send two 4-Hers per age group per category, but there are lots of categories to choose from. So, get started on those presentations now!



District Activity Day

Saturday, March 23 @ NCA&T State University

District Activity Day (or DAD) is the district level of 4-H Presentations competition. This is also the event where our top two talent acts are showcased. This year, DAD is being held much earlier than in the past, and it will be on a Saturday. Hopefully, this will result in more participation from our 4-Hers and their families. DAD will be **Saturday, March 23** at NCA&T State University in Greensboro. More details will be sent out closer to the date.



Teen Retreat

April 5-6 @ Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center



The North Central District will be holding Teen Retreat the weekend of **April 5-6** (Friday & Saturday) at Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center in Reidsville, NC. At this point, there aren't many details that have been released, but I will send those out by email as I get them. Teen Retreat is a weekend retreat for 4-Hers ages 13-18. At this retreat, 4-Hers will have the opportunity to attend workshops, make new friends, develop leadership skills, and have lots of fun! Please let me know if you are interested in attending (and adults, if you want to chaperone, just let me know).

Blueberry Plant Sale Fundraiser

We will again be selling blueberry plants this February as a fundraiser for our county 4-H program. The proceeds from this sale will go towards 4-Her scholarships that you earn by participating in things like Project Records, Talent Show, etc. These proceeds will also help fund our county level events and activities. So be sure to talk it up! The deadline to order plants will be **Friday, February 15** and they will be available the following Thursday and Friday for pick up (**February 21-22**). The cost of the plants will be \$6 each, which is a great price! Varieties include: Climax, Onslow, Powder Blue, Premier, Tifblue, and new this year is New Hanover.



4-H Camp

July 28-August 2 @ Millstone 4-H Center



This year, Alamance County 4-H will be camping at Millstone 4-H Camp in Ellerbe, NC. We will be camping the week of **July 28-August 2** and the fee is \$150 per camper. This will include \$15 of camp store money and a camp tee shirt. We have 10 spots left (5 boy, 5 girl), so if you are interested in your children going to camp, please let us know and send in your \$50 deposit by **February 1st**. Camp is for boys and girls ages 8-12. If you have a 13-14 year old that wants to camp, they can attend as a Junior Leader.



Updates

State Council Conference Update

Four Alamance County 4-Hers attended NC 4-H State Council Conference November 3-4 in Raleigh. Even though we were few in number, we had tons of fun! Reade Allen, Meaghan Gerringer, Anna Jackson and Nathan Troxler were the Alamance County delegates who attended SCC. They had the opportunity to participate in some great workshops, including AIRE (Application, Interview, Resume, Essay), Swing Dancing, How to be a Leader, and more. They heard from Marie Tretiakova from the Center for Creative Leadership, who talked about living "sparktastically," and they listened to Dr. June Atkinson, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction about charting your own course in life. I really enjoyed my weekend with this small group, and I think they can say the same!



Fall Plant Sale & Wreath Sale Updates

This fall, we sold 35 apple trees, 14 pear trees, 20 fig trees, 60 muscadine vines, 24 blackberry plants, and 23 peach trees. We raised a total of \$867, which will help fund our 4-Her scholarships as well as our county 4-H programs.

We also sold 46 Fraser Fir Wreaths and 15 Boxwood Wreaths. In addition, we offered Lindley Mill Muffin Mix for sale during the wreath pick up for \$5 each. Our total profit was \$676, which will also go to our scholarships and county programming. Those 4-Hers that sold wreaths earned \$5 for every wreath they sold. A total of \$185 was earned by our 4-Hers. I also put those names in a hat and drew two names that my wreath money went toward (I bought two wreaths). Those two winners were Will Osborne and Malik King.

Cards & Cookies Update

Every December, Alamance County 4-Hers and their families come together to decorate Christmas cookies and make Christmas cards for the homeless shelter at Allied Churches. This year, there were 35 in attendance and 195 bags of cookies were decorated, and 56 cards were made! This marks 5 years of Cards & Cookies in Alamance County, and it's a great way for our youth to learn about giving back, although it's hard to resist eating those yummy cookies! If you are completing a project book and attended Cards & Cookies, be sure to include it in your Community Service section!

Club & 4-Her Reports

Whitney Wonders—Cards & Cookies

I attended the 4-H Cards & Cookies event on **December 8** at the 4-H Office. Cards & Cookies was a great project to help homeless people at the Allied Churches shelter in Burlington. It was fun decorating the cookies and making Christmas cards. The cookies were very decorative and it was really hard not to eat any of them! The Christmas cards were very creative. I am a member of Whitney Wonders 4-H Club and our club decorated cookies at our club meeting the night before the county Cards & Cookies event. Our club donated about 99 packs of cookies to the county-wide project. We are so glad that people came out to help with this!



by Janie Newlin, Whitney Wonders 4-H Club Reporter



Club & 4-Her Reports

National 4-H Congress

The day after Thanksgiving, 4-Hers joined together in Atlanta, Georgia for a week of incredible opportunities. My favorite activities would probably have to be the International Dinner and Dance, the pin exchange, listening to the speakers, and exploring Atlanta. The International Dinner and Dance was amazing! There were different monuments from all over the world and at each station they served different types of food from that country. There were stations from China, France, Mexico, and other different countries. In the opposite corner from the food, there were arcade games and pool tables. After everything was cleaned up, we had the dance.

The 4-H pin exchange was so, so cool. During this activity, pins are exchanged with other 4-Hers from across the nation. I have some pins from 4-Hers in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Alaska. This was really neat because you got to meet people from different states and see how 4-H affected them. At National 4-H Congress, the speakers were incredible! I loved listening to them, and their speeches ranged from funny to serious, but all were amazing to listen to. I learned so many different things and how to become a better leader and a catalyst for change.



Last but not least, I absolutely loved exploring Atlanta. I went to see the Coke Museum and I tasted all the different sodas they had. We then headed to Westin Tower and looked at Atlanta from 700 feet in the air. You could see everything from up there! The sunset was so beautiful! All in all, National 4-H Congress was great! I had a blast and I have some amazing memories because of it.

by Sarah Kenney

North Central District OMK Sock Drive

Operation Military Kids is a program run by NC 4-H that helps families of servicemen and women. They provide support and supplies for the families of people who are fighting for our country. As my 4-H project this year, I have decided to put on a sock drive for OMK. We are asking for sock donations through April 30, 2013. We ask that all socks be new, white or black tube socks, at least 70% cotton. They can't accept socks with any designs like stripes, etc. Once the sock drive is complete, socks will be sent overseas to the men and women fighting for our country. For more information about the Sock Drive, please contact Meaghan Gerringer at mng4-h@live.com. Thank you all for your support!

by Meaghan Gerringer



Club & 4-Her Reports

Fire 'Em Up—Operation Christmas Child

I went to Operation Christmas Child this year. Every year, this year included, it has been a blast. We inspected, taped and packed the shoeboxes into larger boxes for shipment. This year, the 100 millionth shoe box will be processed through Operation Christmas Child. This year, we arrived on the first day to learn that we were checking boxes that were going to special access countries. We all had a good time and I hope to go back next year.

by Michaela Scarlett

In November, I went to Operation Christmas Child, which sends gifts and the Gospel to foreign countries. My job was taping up the shoeboxes. My friend and I had a contest to see who could tape the most boxes. However, we stopped counting at 523, because, after all, this was for the children. We had fun, and I hope that the boxes we packed will show love to the kids. Also, I want to go next year.

by Ethan Scarlett

On the 21st of November, the members of our club who were old enough went to the Operation Christmas Child warehouse in Charlotte. We met at Target early in the morning and were at OCC by nine. My job was heavy lifting. I kept people supplied with shoe boxes to sort and helped to pack the sorted shoe boxes. We stayed there until three o'clock, and had a lot of fun. I hope to return next year.

by Isaac Scarlett



4-H Club Leader's Corner

Volunteer Leader's Conference

February 1-3 @ Research Triangle Park

The Volunteer Leader's Conference is a great training opportunity for our 4-H Club Leaders and will be held **February 1-3** at the Sheraton Imperial in RTP. This is a weekend conference, but you can choose to go only on Saturday if you wish. There are tons of exciting and useful workshops to choose from and Alamance County 4-H will even pay \$50 of your registration! The early bird registration deadline is **January 11**, and you must register on your own. The early bird full time registration is \$140 (for the whole weekend), and registration for Saturday only is \$85 (deadline of 1/29/2013). If you are a 4-H Club Leader and would like to attend, please let me know and I'll be happy to send you the registration packet.



Spring Leader Meeting

Monday, April 8 @ 6:30 pm

The past few years, we've had our Spring Leader Meeting in March, but since there are so many things going on that month, I thought it would be best to move this meeting to Monday, April 8th at 6:30 pm. As of right now, we will have this meeting at the Extension Office. If that changes, I will let you know. Dinner will be provided at no charge, and all 4-H Club Leaders are asked to attend. To be an official 4-H Club, leaders must attend at least two (2) trainings throughout the year.

This is a great way to fit that in, and the Volunteer Leader's Conference counts as one of those trainings. This meeting will last no more than 2 hours. Club leaders, please add this to your calendar. If you are unable to attend, please designate another parent from your club to come in your place.

Talent Show Guidelines & Entry Form

Guidelines

1. All entry forms must be submitted either by mail, online or in person by **Monday, January 28th**.
2. You may perform in a maximum of 2 acts. If you perform in 2 acts, you will need to submit 2 entry forms.
3. All talent participants will receive \$10 of 4-H Scholarship Money, including Cloverbuds. If a participant is in two acts, they will still only receive \$10.
4. The top two talent acts will receive a purple ribbon.
5. The talent portion is not a competition, but a showcase of talent. Judges will choose the top two performances (these must be ages 9-18) and one alternate to represent Alamance County at District Activity Day (on March 23).

Alamance County 4-H Talent Show Entry Form—2013

***If performing in two acts, please complete an entry form for each act. Thanks!*

Name(s)	
Age (s) As of Jan. 1, 2013	
Club	
Description of Act	

Calendar of Upcoming 4-H Events

Here are a few things that will be moved around a little bit this year.

- **4-H Shines**—We are splitting up the sections for 4-H Shines this year. We will be doing the talent portion at Celebration Night. We will do the Fashion Revue & Visual Arts competitions during National 4-H Week (in October).
- **Nutrition Fair**—We are moving this event to September. It will be either the first or second Saturday in September and will tentatively be held at Alamance Community College.
- **Presentations**—We will be doing our county level presentations in February, district presentations in March (DAD), and state presentations in June (at 4-H Congress).
- **Congress**—This year, 4-H Congress will be held June 22-25, which is a Saturday through Tuesday. State level presentations will be held Saturday, June 22.



Cooperative Extension's Youth Development Program

Alamance County 4-H

209-C N. Graham-Hopedale Rd.
Burlington, NC 27217
<http://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu>

Phone: 336-570-6740
Fax: 336-570-6689

JOIN THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY
Cooperative Extension's Youth Development Program



Spotlight on Extension

4-H is just a part of Cooperative Extension. There are many other events and activities that go on in Extension. Listed below are a few that you might be interested in. Keep an eye on our website for more upcoming programs!

- **Cooperative Extension Office Closings:**

January 1, 2013—New Year's Day

January 21, 2013—MLK Day

- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**—April 20, 2013,
8 am-1 pm

- **2013 Horticulture Classes**—THINK GREEN THURSDAY classes

February 14, 10 am—Grapevine Pruning with Andy Zeman

February 21, 10 am—Fruit Tree Pruning and Training

March 14, 10 am—Pruning Woody Ornamentals

March 28, 10 am—Vegetable Gardening

- **Locally Grown**—Looking for local farms and food in Alamance County? Visit our website for more information!

<http://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu/2012/09/local-foods-news/>



Alamance County 4-H
HEAD. HEART. HANDS. HEALTH.



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