**Speak Up**

4-H Speak Up! is a great way for you to practice your 4-H presentation or brush up on your public speaking skills. Cheryl Kane from Barton & Kane Consolidated will once again offer a great public speaking series for youth ages 7-17. The dates are: April 12, April 19, April 26, May 3, May 10 and May 17 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Agriculture Center, 2727 Old Concord Road, Salisbury. The cost for the series is $5. Please call 704-216-8970 to register ASAP, space is limited!

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**County Council Meeting**

County Council will be meeting Thursday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office. We will be planning the 4-H Summer Fun Activity that County Council is sponsoring. Call 704-216-8970 by Tuesday, April 6 if you plan to attend.

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**Paper Clover Promotion Featured at Local Tractor Supply**

National 4-H Council is thrilled to announce that 4-H will be partnering with the nation’s leading rural lifestyle retailer Tractor Supply Company (TSC) to implement a national Paper Clover Promotion March 26 to April 18.

Sixty percent of each paper clover sold/customer donation will go directly to the county 4-H program in which it was raised, 10% will go to the state 4-H program and the remaining 30% will go to National 4-H Council.

Rowan County 4-H is looking for volunteers to man a table at Tractor Supply April 11 through 17. If you would like to volunteer for one of the shifts, please call 704-216-8970.
**ARIE Applications Due in May**

ARIE also known as Application, Interview, Resume & Essay is a 4-step process by which youth are chosen to attend National events such as National Congress, National Conference and International Leadership Conference. Youth ages 14-18 (as of January 1) are eligible to participate. Youth ages 11-13 aspiring to participate in the AIRE program are encouraged to participate this year in a non-competitive “Interview” process during 4-H Congress in July. All applications are due by May 14, 2010. All forms can be downloaded from the 4-H Website (http://rowan4h.com).

**WCD Horse Show**

The WCD 4-H Horse Show will be held Saturday, May 22 at Latta Plantation in Huntersville, NC. To participate in the show, each 4-H member must have a signed eligibility card, original copy of your horse’s negative Coggins test and lease papers (if applicable). There have been some rule changes, so please read all rules carefully! All classes have a $6 entry fee. Entries must be postmarked by April 23! For an entry form and the rules visit the Rowan County 4-H website (http://rowan4h.com).

**RACE Showmanship/Halter/Show Prep Clinic**

A Showmanship/Halter/Show Preparation Clinic will be held Saturday, May 8 at Ellis Park Event Center, 2054 E. Ridge Road, Salisbury, NC. Bring your horse and learn to compete in showmanship and halter classes. The clinician is Robin Lovin. Robin will also enlighten participants about 4-H District and State Horse Events. There are two sessions: Session 1 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. and session 2 from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. Limited to 10 participants per session. Unlimited number of auditors are allowed. The cost is $15 per horse and rider or $5 per auditor. Call 704-216-8970 by April 30 to register.

**NC Operation: Military Kids Visual Arts Contest**

NC OMK is excited to announce the 3rd Annual NC Operation: Military Kids Visual Arts Contest. The contest is open to all North Carolina youth. Age categories are 5-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15 and 16-19. This year’s themes are: Celebrating Military Careers, Honoring Our Heroes and Growing Up in America. Contest rules and guidelines can be downloaded from http://rowan4-h.com. ENTRIES must be turned in by Thursday, April 15.

**4-H Summer Camp**

Rowan County 4-H is recruiting campers, ages 8 to 12, for the week of June 13 - 18 at Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center. During the day, you will swim, canoe, work on a craft, learn about nature and archery. In the evenings, you will gather around a campfire, share skits and talents and learn games and dances. Please call 704-216-8970 ASAP, space is limited!
RACE 4-H Open Horse Show

The first of two RACE 4-H Open Horse Shows of the year will be held Saturday, May 1 at Ellis Park Event Center, 2054 E. Ridge Road, Salisbury, NC. Gates will open at 8 a.m. with the show beginning promptly at 9 a.m. Entry fees are $5 per class or $45 for 10 or more classes. For more information, class list and rules, go online and check out the RACE 4-H Blog (http://race4-h.blogspot.com/). Spectators are always welcome!

Sponsorships are also available for individuals and businesses. To inquire about becoming a show sponsor for the 2010 Show Season, contact Sara Drake at 704-216-8970 by Friday, April 16!

ALL riders under 18 years of age will be required to properly wear protective headgear that meets or surpasses ASTM/SEI standards while mounted. It is the responsibility of the rider and the parent or guardian of the rider to confirm that the headgear worn by the rider complies with safety standards set forth above; is properly fitted, fastened and worn; and is in such a condition that it would protect the rider in the case of an accident.

Expressive Arts Contest & Photo Contest

All entries are due by Friday, April 30 by 5 p.m. The rules, guidelines and entry forms are posted on the Rowan County 4-H Website (http://rowan4h.com/). There is a new category for the Photo Contest. It is “4-H Family.” Please add this to your entry form if you are using the one from the February newsletter.

Equine Artistic Expression and Creative Writing Contests

The NC 4-H Artistic Expression and Creative Writing Contests entry deadlines are Friday, April 30, 2010. The categories for entries in Artistic Expression are: drawing, painting, poster, crafts, sewing and photography. For information on eligibility and general guidelines, go online at http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/Webpages/NCSU_EHH_4-H_Homepage.html or contact the Extension Office (704-216-8970).
Poultry Poster Contest

The Poultry Poster Contest is designed to be an educational activity for youth to learn about our poultry industry across North Carolina. The 2010 theme for the poultry poster contest is "Avian Health and Bio-Security." Ages divisions at the county and state level are: 9-10, 11-13 and 14-19. Youth ages 5-8 participate on a non-competitive basis at the county level only.

For more information on the contest including rules and an entry form, please visit the Rowan County 4-H website (http://rowan4h.com). Posters are due to the Extension Office by Wednesday, June 30.

At the state level, first place in each age category will receive $50 cash, second place will receive $35 cash and third place will receive $25 cash.

Dairy People’s Choice Poster Contest

Dollar for dollar, dairy is one of the most economical sources of nutrition. Show us how “Dairy Makes Cents” to you by submitting a hard or electronic copy of your 4-H poster for a chance to be the big cheese and win $100 from the Southeast Dairy Association. Your friends can get in on the action by going to www.southeastdairy.org/DairyMakesCents and voting for you as the “People’s Choice” winner between June 1 and June 30.

Submissions, including the entry form and a copy of your poster, should be sent to dairymakescents@sedairy.org or mailed to communications 21, “Dairy Makes Cents Contest,” 834 Inman Village Parkway, Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30307.

In early July one winner in Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia in the age categories of 9-12, 13-15 and 16-19 will be selected based on the number of online votes, for a total of three “People’s Choice” winners per state. Winners will be notified by phone and the $100 check will be sent via mail. See Official Rules for details.

Citizenship NC Focus

The 6th Annual 4-H Citizenship North Carolina Focus will be held June 14-16, 2010 in Raleigh at the Sheraton Downtown. Hands-on workshops, panel discussions, distinguished speakers, and open discussion will help you discover how government impacts your everyday life, and how you can impact government in return. You will learn about state government, learn about working with public officials, hear from prominent North Carolina officials, and visit legislators. This event is open to 4-H’ers, ages 14-19. Registration fees are $50, which includes 2 nights lodging and meals during the conference. Applications must be completed by Friday, April 23. Contact Sara at 704-216-8970 for additional information.
Dairy Poster Contest

Each year the Dairy Poster Contest educational activity involves a large number of youth in a meaningful learning experience as they learn about our dairy industry. The theme for the 2010 Dairy Poster Contest is "Dairy Makes Cents - June Dairy Month."

Ages divisions at the county and state level are: 9-10, 11-13 and 14-19. Youth ages 5-8 participate on a non-competitive basis at the county level only.

For more information on the contest including rules and an entry form, please visit the Rowan County 4-H website (http://rowan4h.com). Posters are due to the Extension Office by Wednesday, June 30.

At the state level, first place in each age category will receive $100 cash, second place will receive $75 cash and third place will receive $50 cash.

Mark Your Calendars!

There will be a few summer workshops for 4-H members only. These will not be advertised through the summer fun brochure. The dates are:

- July 1 – 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. – Horse Nutrition and Body Score
- July 6 – 9 a.m. – Project Record Workshop/Workday for Cloverbuds and 9-10 year olds
- July 7-9 – 9 a.m. – Project Record Day Camp for 11-18 year olds
- July 16 – 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. – 4-H Hippology

Watch the May Newsletter for more information!

State 4-H Horse Bowl

Congratulations goes out to Hannah Cargill, Erin Christner, Celine Falcone, Micah Furr, Mackenzie Kuhns and coach Ann Furr for placing 4th in the State 4-H Horse Bowl Competition held March 6 at NC A&T State University. We also had high individuals! Micah placed 6th, Hannah placed 8th and Erin was in the top 15! Great job guys!!
Calendar of Events…

April
2  Holiday ~ Office Closed
8  County Council Meeting
9-11 Spring Shooting Sports Weekend
12  Speak Up
17  State Horse Judging Contest
    Dairy Quizbowl & Skill-a-thon
19  Speak Up
23  Entry Deadline for WCD Horse Show
26  Speak Up
30  Expressive Arts & Photo Contest Entry Deadline
    Registration Deadline for RACE 4-H Showmanship/Halter/Show Prep Clinic

May
1  RACE 4-H Open Horse Show
3  Speak Up
8  RACE 4-H Showmanship/Halter/Show Prep Clinic
10  Speak Up
13  PALS/County Council Meeting
14  ARIE Applications Due
    Ambassador Portfolios Due
22  WCD Horse Show
25  County Activity Day
31  Holiday ~ Office Closed

IT’S SPRING!

Sincerely,
Sara Drake
Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development