

Making the Best Better

Story & Photo By:
Terri Licking

Four-H in Nebraska has over 25,000 youth enrolled in over 150 projects. Pre-4-H youth are Clover kids, ages 5 to 8. Youth can explore new horizons and “make the best better,” in their chosen projects until they reach the age of 18.

Central Sandhills Area 4-H Youth Development Assistant, Shaniya Albertus, shared the idea for a Community Service Project to leaders, Angie Pettit and Jacey Anderson. Eight Thomas County Achiever 4-H Club members and one Clover kid, used their heads, hands and hearts to improve the health of a 4-H'er in Hooker County. The emblem of the 4-H program is a four-leaf clover, with each leaf representing head, hands, heart and health.

The club researched what Oakes Miller, 12-year-old son of Bryan and Tami Miller of Hooker County liked. They learned he liked patriotic colors and they came together in the Assembly of God Church basement to compile and sew a quilt for Oakes using those colors.



Four-H members involved in making the quilt, l-r: Haxton Hoffman, Hayden Hoffman, RyDell Scott, Piper Hanson, Shaniya Rines-tine, Ariata Scott, Chandler Pettit, Emerson Pettit, and Kennedy Hoffman. Receiving the quilt is Oakes Miller from Hooker County.

Pettit is an amazing seamstress and she led

them through the process. They even sewed by hand at times. “We are so thankful to the church for allowing us to use their basement,” Pettit said. “We would clean up every Saturday or when it was needed for other activities and then we would roll out the project on Monday.”

Oake’s mom, Tami said they have been making a

lot of trips to Omaha to find answers to Oake’s health issues. She gave up being on the Hooker County 4-H Council among other groups, to concentrate on getting answers while her son has given up some of the activities 12-year-old boys do.

“To have other kids in another county who don’t know him do this for him is amazing,”

Tami said.

The Thomas County Achievers who worked on the project were Haxton, Kennedy and Hayden Hoffman, Chandler and Emerson Pettit, Ariata and RyDell Scott, Piper Hanson, and Shania Rines-tine. RyDell was the lone Clover kid who can’t wait to be a “real” 4-H’er in a couple of years.

Oakes and his parents

Bryan and Tami and sister, Hope attended the Thomas County Fair barbecue on Saturday, July 29, where they transferred the quilt from its makers to its new owner. A standing ovation was given the youth and many eyes were tearing up.

“I’m taking this to Omaha next time to show my doctors,” Oakes said.

State Fair 4-H Entry Info

The Nebraska State Fair is right around the corner and all the information needed to get your exhibits entered follows.

Please contact the Extension Office if you have any questions regarding criteria for exhibits for State Fair. Extension Office Staff will attach the proper exhibit tags to your exhibit before it leaves for State Fair.

CLOTHING EXHIBITS must include identification labels and information cards just like fair.

FOOD EXHIBITS that require recipe cards should have the recipe card placed under the plate and in a plastic bag. Please use a SELF-SEALING BAG to allow for secure and proper attachment of the entry tag. Food exhibits must be FROZEN for transportation to State Fair.

HOME ENVIRONMENT exhibits require a tag with additional information, including the elements and design principles used in the project. Use 2-gallon Zip-lock bags for photos and drawings to prevent any damage during transport.

Blaine County pick up: 10:00 a.m. CT on Mon-

day, August 21st at the Sandhills High School parking lot in Dunning

Thomas County exhibits will need to be delivered: 10 a.m. CT on Tuesday, August 22nd to the Extension Office in Thedford

Hooker County pick up: 9:00 a.m. MT on Tuesday, August 22nd at the Extension Office in Mullen

Grant County pick up: 7:30 a.m. MT on Tuesday, August 22nd at the Hyannis School Office

Extension staff will then transport your exhibits to the State Fair on Wednesday, August 23rd, 2022.

(Not all exhibits may be able to be transported by our office due to the size of the project.)

Fragile exhibit? Package it properly (i.e., bubble wrap and box). Secure tipsy containers of flowers. Proper packaging for exhibit(s) will help prevent damage during transportation. The Extension Office is NOT responsible for damage to exhibits.

4-H DAY AT THE FAIR

See State Fair Info.

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Parade Winners Announced



TERRI LICKING PHOTO

Redi-Mix was the winning float at the 2023 Thomas County Fair Parade. They used a pirate theme to have some ‘Fun In The Sun’.



TERRI LICKING PHOTO

Anthem Coffee was the second place winner in the Thomas County Parade. They are pictured above headed down the parade route in Thedford.



TERRI LICKING PHOTO

Third place winner in the Thomas County Parade was the FCCLA float. The students walked and rode the parade route having ‘Fun In The Sun’.