



Halton 4-H Ontario Roundup



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Halton 4-H Rabbit Club

BY DAVID GOODING

The fourth meeting of the Halton 4-H Rabbit Club was held on Monday, July 12th when we travelled to Schomberg to tour Bill Gardhouse's Rabbit Operation. Mr. Gardhouse keeps New Zealand Whites and Black, Broken & White Rex, and has been keeping rabbits for 44 years!! Right now he has over 200 rabbits and he sells most of his rabbits for breeding stock.

The members were interested in his automatic watering system that gives rabbits fresh water at all times. Mr. Gardhouse stressed that it's important not to overfeed your rabbit. He uses a low protein/high fibre pellet, feeds no hay and supplements his nursing rabbits with Calfmanna. He admits that if it wasn't for exhibiting rabbits, he probably would have lost interest in rabbits long ago. By the number of trophies he has, we could tell he's been successful at that too!

Whitney Tilt thanked Mr. Gardhouse for hosting the tour of his Rabbit Operation, one of the best in Ontario!!

After our tour, we had the business part of the meeting. We were given a list of showmanship tips, so we can practise with our rabbits over the summer.

Thanks to Ward Brownridge for arranging the trip and for the refreshments we enjoyed before the trip back home.

Halton 4-H Senior Dairy Club

BY NAOMI LUTES

The Halton Senior Dairy Calf Club met for our third meeting this year at Agram Farms, on Trafalgar Road. However, we didn't start off the meeting by judging Agram Holsteins. Instead, we judged a 2 year old and an aged jersey class, because the Livock herd is temporarily being housed at Agram due to the fire they experienced. After the two classes were judged and the business part of the meeting over, Curt, Stephanie and Lee presented a 10 minute lesson they had been asked to prepare at our last meeting. They covered many topics, ranging from proper nutrition for your 4-H calf and training it, to filling and fitting in preparation for the show itself. They gave many helpful hints like: you should put ice water on your heifers topline to help the hair grow and to make sure you get a hoof trim and the first clip job done 5 to 6 weeks before the first show. To practice filling your calf, which is one of the harder things to do in preparation for the show, you should start out at least a month ahead of a show and see what works to achieve the ideal fill. A good fill should make the calf appear deeper and show more spring of rib. Get your calf used to beet pulp, as this is used in the ring process. Using 1st cut hay will open your heifer up, and then it slowly drops down. The next group that gets to present a lesson consists of Carl, Amy Winter, and myself. We will present at our next meeting on July 15, at Harold Patterson's farm in Milton. At this meeting the club will also be conducting our "Cow Patty Bingo" fundraiser. For those of you who have bought tickets, the winner will be notified following the event. Our August meeting is going to focus on Showmanship skills as we prepare for the Gencor Challenge.

Halton 4-H Beef Fitting Club

BY LINDSEY ROGERS

The first meeting for the Halton 4-H Beef Fitting Club was held on May 9th at the White family farm. We started right away with most of the members washing two calves and preparing it as if for a show. Then we just cut all their coat off. We thank the Whites for this wonderful experience even though they were some chasing around the truck for a calf.

The second meeting for the Halton 4-H Beef Fitting Club was held on June 13th at Moorefield Farm where we judged some of Mr. Moore's calves. We found it makes a great difference if the calves are moving or standing still.

We also talked about who would be going to Showfest on July 11th and Members conference on the 5th, 6th and 7th. For those who went to the Members Conference, how do you feel?

Halton 4-H Sheep Club

BY JESSICA LUTES

The 3rd and 4th meetings of the Halton 4-H Sheep club took place at the Markham Fair grounds on July 18. We were participating in Sheep Focus, where Halton cleaned up!

Sheep Focus is organized and run by the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, and is designed to let sheep breeders come to show, and possibly sell their animals. The Jr. program is open to any youth with an interest in sheep, but usually it's a 4-Hers who participate.

Throughout the day, the 17 youth participants - 9 of which were members of our club - took part in the activities. After being split into three groups, we competed in: sheep body scoring, judging and reasons, an identification quiz, a health and breeding quiz, and a quiz about the presentations we listened to, which were about: wool, shearing, sheep herding, and ultra sound.

After waiting through conformation classes, and an auction of market lambs, the awards ceremony began. In the Novice division, Victoria Brooks placed 5th; Deanna McPhail, 4th; Donna McPhail 3rd; Naomi Lutes, 2nd, and Cristy Nurse, 1st.

Junior division: Jodey Nurse 3rd, Ashley Brander 1st. Scott Martin was 1st Senior and also came in 1st place in the entire Junior program!

Naomi Lutes was awarded Reserve Champion Sheep Reasons, and Halton County as a team won trophy for best participation.

Thank you to our leaders - Marie Martin and Eleanor Lutes - and parent-Betty Brander - for driving us to Sheep Focus.

As a follow up to, The Meeting that Never was, I found out that the members (The ones who actually found Indian Garden Farm) paired up and had a hands on lesson about how to shear a sheep. I've also been told that there are two hot, wooly sheep, still waiting to be sheared by you-know-who.

Halton 4-H Jr. Dairy Calf Club

BY CRISTY NURSE

On Thursday, June 17th, the Halton Junior Dairy Calf Club met at Agram Farm on Trafalgar Road. However, the purpose of our meeting was to view the animals of Avonlea Jerseys. The meeting began about 7:30 P.M. when the 4-H pledge was stated and attendance was taken. The club then judged a class of Jersey cows and all the members were required to give reasons. The Juniors then went over three different bales of hay and chose the top kind. Hay bales were judged on legume to grass content (or vice versa), weeds or other foreign substances, smell, colour and texture. Next, all members reviewed a "True Type" Jersey animal. This Avonlea cow was past Grand Champion of the Royal Winter Fair and Grand Champion at the recent Ontario Dairy Discovery Show. After, Stephanie Gregson gave both the Juniors and Seniors updated information about Club fund raising. The meeting was then adjourned and The Livocks were thanked, and then we were treated to refreshments.

Thank you to The Livock Family for such a wonderful meeting.

Halton 4-H Light Horse Club

BY BRAD ADKINS

June 15th marked the date of the 4-H light horse club's 5th meeting. The meeting was held at the Halton School of Equitation and was hosted by Auriel Halliday.

The meeting started at 7:30 p.m. and Heather Dixon started the roll call with the 4-H pledge. Halfway through roll calls Mrs. Halliday took us on a tour of the ranch. We went down the stairway from the lobby into the tack room where all the horse tack was categorized to which horse it belongs to. We then took a tour of the main barn and then into another part of the barn where some of the horses are kept. During our tour Mrs. Halliday explained to us how she runs and operates her ranch. She also told us the ratio between guys and girls to the sport, it's an amazing 50 girls to one guy! Wow!

After the tour we went and watched some of the girls do their riding lessons and then we went back to the meeting area to finish roll call. Heather Marshall then gave us a test on all that we had learned so far and things we should know like "What is the 4-H motto?" That's easy, it's learn to do by doing. Very special thanks to the Halton School of Equitation.

Halton 4-H Soil and Crop Club

BY DOUG TAYLOR

The 2nd meeting of the Halton Soil and Crop Club was held on April 30th at Peter Lambrick's house.

One part of the meeting we discussed aspects of soil. We started by looking at different thicknesses of soil like a hard compact driveway to soft soil under a tree. We also discussed the components that make up soil. They are water, air, and ground up rocks. We also looked at soil testing. We learned how to cover every aspect of the field, excluding odd spots, what to use, silver hand test, different aspects of testing, money and what your testing for. We then discussed layers of soil. 1st layer is top soil, 2nd layer is sub soil. We were told that plants can grow in greenhouse soil, regular soil, and hydroponics. Last we dug a hole in the field and saw that there were three textures of soil, loam, medium and hard.

4-H Newsletter

For further information contact A. Carpenter, Coordinator for Applications, (905) 877-5537 or fax: (905) 873-6888

Go for the Gold

Halton County Go for the Gold on August 18th, 1999. OMAFRA office - 260 Guelph St., Georgetown, 7:00 p.m. Contact Eleanor Lutes, 905-840-3355. Regional competition - October 2nd, Burch Church, Brantford.

4-H Future Talk

4-H Future Talk is a unique program that provides "hands on" training for senior 4-H members. Future Talk focuses on building verbal and non verbal communication skills through active learning activities. 4-H members learn about: introducing and thanking guest speakers, being active and attentive listeners, speaking with confidence to one or 100, creating and giving professional presentations.

Who can attend: open to 4-H members 15 years and older by January 1st, 1999. Applications will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis. Previous Future Talk participants may return for one additional time.

Location: Boyd Conservation Centre, Kleinberg, ON, Oct. 22-24, 1999.

Registration open to 38 delegates. By Sept. 1/99 - \$65. After Sept. 1-17 - \$75 (applications close Sept. 17). Contact A. Carpenter, Co-ordinator for application forms.

Attention All Interested Writers!

Amber Underwood Memorial 4-H News Report Competition

This competition fosters the development of writing and news reporting skills in 4-H members.

Who: Open to all Ontario 4-H members. Entries will be divided into: a) Junior (10-14 before January 1) b) Senior (15-21 before January 1) Previous winners may not compete in the same category again.

What: a 500 word entry that is:

- A report on a 4-H program, 4-H event or 4-H success story, OR
- a review of a current agricultural or rural community concern, OR
- an interview with a community leader

How: Entries must be double-spaced and typewritten. Members must include their name, date of birth, address and telephone number on the back of the entry.

Criteria

Content: 50 points
Writing Style: 45 points
Presentation: 5 points

When: Entries can be mailed to: Evelyn Chambers, Activity & Volunteer Coordinator, Ontario 4-H Council, 435 Quaker Road, R.R.#1, Oakwood, ON K0M 2M0

Fax: 705-357-3051 (fax copies accepted with originals to follow in mail) BEFORE NOVEMBER 17, 1999.

Why: The winners, 1 junior and 1 senior, will each receive a \$100 cash award. Their entries may be printed in various media.

"Learn to do by doing"