

Halton 4-H Ontario Roundup



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Halton 4-H Jr. Dairy Calf Club

BY CRISTY NURSE

On Thursday, July 15th, the Halton Junior Dairy Calf Club held its monthly meeting at Valleycrest Farm in Milton. The meeting began at 7:30 pm, when attendance was taken and Leader Ken McNabb opened the meeting with the reviewing of a bag of haylage. Next, all members took part in a scavenger hunt, in which everyone was asked to find weeds like pigweed and ragweed, and other types of grass and flowers. After everyone had regrouped to show their finds, Junior members headed inside to judge a class of Holsteins and a class of milking Shorthorns. When official placings were given on each class, many members went to see the farm's Holstein bull. Despite his large size, he proved to be very friendly and very impressive. The meeting was then adjourned when the Pattersons were thanked and everyone was treated to refreshments. Thank-you to the Pattersons for hosting our meeting, and providing many members the chance to judge milking Shorthorns for the first time.

Halton 4-H Draft Horse Club

BY KATE SPARLING

On August 10 at 7:00 the Halton Draft Horse club held their 5th and final meeting of the year at Nurseland farm on Trafalgar Rd. At the meeting we practiced our showmanship on some nice Clydesdale horses and were given some helpful tips by leaders Jeff Nurse, Bill Stokes and Dave Leitch. After we each took our turn polishing up our skills, we wrote a quiz about everything we have learned this year. As part of the quiz we reviewed the parts of the harness and their function. The meeting closed at 9:00 after we discussed the requirements of each member at our upcoming achievement day. It will be held on Friday September 10 at 6:00 at the Georgetown fair grounds. After the meeting the members were gratefully treated to refreshments and treats by the Nurse family. Thank you to the Nurses for hosting the meeting and thanks to the leaders for their dedication and hard work during the past Draft Horse club season.

Halton 4-H Sheep Club

BY JESSICA LUTES

The Halton 4-H Sheep Club unfortunately came to an end on Saturday, August 14. This meeting was our preview show, so members brought their lambs to Molinaro Stable in Acton in order to practise our showmanship skills. The day began with all members and their lambs in one class, which must have been fun to watch for the spectators, which included guests Austin and Mary Carpenter. Lambs were jumping and running everywhere, and the noise from their bleating was sometimes so loud, we couldn't hear what Marie Martin was trying to teach us. My lamb wasn't behaving, so she had to be put back in her pen, and became very distressed, because her pen-mate, Naomi's lamb, was no where to be found. Because I now had no lamb to show, I was able to judge for a while, as did other members. Marie Martin asked us all to switch lambs, which was hard because the lambs weren't used to their new handlers. After the show, we had a barbequed lunch, with snacks and dessert brought in by parents and leaders. For the rest of the afternoon, we had lots of fun swimming in the pond, being tipped out of the canoe by Scott, and taking turns riding in the farm's John Deere Gator. Soon it was time to leave, so we loaded up our lambs. I would like to encourage anyone who has an interest in sheep, or wants to learn how to show a sheep, to join the sheep club. It's lots of fun, and you learn a lot. I would like to thank Marie Martin and Eleanor Lutes for being two great leaders, and thank you for reading my press report.

4-H Newsletter

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

Go for the Gold
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.

Achievement Days

Georgetown Fair
Sept. 10, 11, 12
Soil & Crop Club - All Weekend
Heavy Horse Club - Sept. 10, 7 pm
Rabbit Club - Sept. 11, 9 am
Sheep Club - Sept. 12, 12 pm
Beef Fitting Club - Sept. 12, 1:30pm

Acton Fair
Sept. 17, 18, 19
Beef Club - Sept. 18 in a.m.

Milton Fair
Sept. 24, 25, 26
Jr./Sr. Dairy Clubs

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, one junior and one senior, will each receive a \$100 cash award. Their entries may be printed in various media.

Halton 4-H Senior Dairy Club

BY NAOMI LUTES

The Halton 4-H Dairy Club's "Cow Patty Bingo" was held at our fourth meeting on July 15 at Harold Patterson's farm in Milton. For those of you who aren't familiar with this type of bingo, I'll explain. Cow Patty Bingo was a fundraiser for our dairy clubs with the proceeds going to help our team at the upcoming Gencor Challenge on August 20 and 21. Tickets were sold to buy a square in a large grid. We brought a cow out into the roped off area, and the square that the cow left manure in it was the winning square. Barbara Ford won a prize of \$50 and generously donated it back to our club. In total, we made \$310.00. Harold Patterson owns Milking Shorthorn cattle as well as Holsteins, so we had the opportunity to judge a class of each. It had been the responsibility of Carl, Amy Winter and myself to prepare the lesson for his meeting, so after judging, we presented. We talked about BCA; what it is and what the breed averages are. BCA stands for breed class average and it relates to the amount of milk, fat and protein a cow produces. We also talked about how the milk is produced, the udder, good milking practices, and DHI (dairy herd improvement) testers. Our next meeting is on August 12 at Larry and Pat Bennett's. We're going to focus on showmanship in preparation for Gencor and upcoming fairs.

Out fifth and final meeting of the year focused on showmanship. The members of both the senior and junior clubs each had a chance to show one of five heifers supplied by the Gregsons and Bennetts. Bert Stewart and Ken McNabb acted as judge to the members in the ring. They offered some tips and told us what we were doing right (and wrong). This meeting was also the location for a brief but important Gencor planning meeting. Nine members from both clubs will be traveling to Markham the weekend of the 20th to participate in the Gencor Challenge.

After the everybody had a chance to show one of the calves, the clubs split up and wrote a quiz. Our difficult quiz was written by our leader Paul Laidlaw, who was absent for this meeting.

The senior club would like to thank our dedicated leaders, Bert Stewart and Paul Laidlaw, and all the farms who have hosted our meetings this year.

Ontario Inter-County Dairy Judging Competition



CRYSTAL CLEAR JUDGING - Paige Gregson, Naomi Lutes, Stephanie Gregson and Judging Club leader Bert Stewart display the crystal the club won at the Dairy Judging Competition in Kemptonville, Ontario. Out of 44 juniors, Paige placed 9th overall and Naomi placed 1st. The junior team also placed 1st overall. Out of 76 seniors, Stephanie placed 7th overall and Carl Patten placed 43rd. The senior team placed 12th overall at the August 4th event.

Halton 4-H Light Horse Club

BY BRAD ADKINS

The light horse club held it's 6th and final meeting at the Armstrong Brother's Farm in Brampton. As we drove past the big black iron gates there was a house, a couple big orange barns and the office. We all assembled in the Lobby of the office then filed into the conference room where we were blinded by Bronze, Silver, and Gold trophies and pictures of people and horses. We sat around a big conference table with very comfortable chairs. Then Heather Marshall started the role call and called for Scott Martin (secretary) for attendance, and minutes of the last meeting. Secretary of the Farm Debbie McKeown, was to be our tour guide for the meeting and talked about some of the history of the farm. She then answered any questions we had. This farm has about 480 horses, and 156 of there own brood mares. Of all these horses, Armbr Flight was there most memorable and profitable horse. There are about 30-35 people who work there all the time 10 in the office and 20-25 outdoors in the barns. The farms vet is Mr. Gunn and he looks after all the horses which are placed in stall stalls for him. Unlike a lot of farms, Armbr Farms have all their feed and hay brought in, instead of growing it themselves. We then went through one of the barns and it looked small on the outside but was huge on the inside. Inside we met in the rooms where they pull semen for shipment around the world. We then toured some of the inside stalls where all of the stallions are kept. The stallions' average earnings were about 1 million dollars. After we discussed why all the barns were orange, Mrs. Mckeown didn't know why but, she guessed because it was the color of the Armstrong Brother's construction trucks for their company for safety reasons. We then assembled in the conference room where we went over the test that we had in the last meeting. We then closed the meeting. Thanks to Mrs. Debbie Mckeown for the tour and her hospitality, Armstrong Brother's Farms for allowing us to hold our meeting there. The 4-H Light Horse Club thanks you for another great Season 4-H members. P.S. Armbr Farms is holding an open house on the Sunday of Labour Day Weekend.

Halton 4-H Fitting Club

BY CRISTY NURSE

On Thursday, June 24th, the Halton Dairy Clipping and Fitting club held its monthly meeting at Nurseland Farm, on Trafalgar Road. The meeting began at 8:00 pm, when attendance was taken and the place for our Achievement Day was discussed. Next, members paired up and selected a suitable heifer to clip. After every member had completed their "project", Leaders Tyler Brander and Connie Bennett came to every member with comments and suggestions on how to improve their clipping job. Tyler also pointed out certain members who had done the best jobs. After everyone had heard what they could improve, the club thanked Jeff Nurse for hosting the meeting and everyone was treated to refreshments.

**"Learn to do
by doing"**