

## Morrow County

# Award winning tole painters back again

You won't find a definition listed in most dictionaries but there are some real experts on the subject right here in Morrow County.

The topic is tole painting and the practitioners are members of the 4-H tole painting club.

Tole painting is the decorative art of painting objects or

designs on tinware or wood, and each week throughout the year, the ten members of the 4-H club meet to ply their craft. The result—usually one finished product a year for each member—has been making quite a hit with Fair judges both at the county and state levels. Last year, the painters took the champion

and reserve champion ribbons at the County Fair and several more awards at the State Fair in Salem.

The club—consisting of Melody Gochnauer, Alice Abrams, Linda Keithley, Debbie Paustain, Janette Piper, Jodi Padberg, Arlene Gray, Susan Gray, Mardel James and Shelly Thompson—meets once a week at the home of Mrs. Eldon Padberg for a painting session under the direction of Mrs. Padberg and Phyllis Piper.

Members are in various stages of the four-year program which involves a yearly progression of: painting tole—a pattern of basic strokes—on wood the first year, painting tole on tinware the second year, a fruit design on wood the third year and a flower design on wood the fourth year.

The objects to be painted as well as the subject of the painting is left up to the girls and can vary from daisies on a milk can to a bowl of fruit on a set of bookends. The club holds a food sale once a year to provide some money for the paints and other necessary supplies and all those blue

ribbons keep the incentive level high. After applying the finishing touches to this year's artworks, the tole painters will be back at the Morrow

County Fair exhibiting the fruits of their labors, so to speak, and looking for another shot at representing Morrow County at the State Fair.



*Jodi Padberg works with wood*



*Shelley Thompson brushes up*



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