

Small animal entries encouraged

By Debbie Harper

Do you know what rock doves are? How about covies? You'll learn that and more when you tour the small animals exhibits at the Morrow County Fair.

Becky Tullis, barn supervisor for the small animal exhibits, wants to encourage people with small animals to exhibit them. "If someone has hamsters or gerbils, they're welcome to bring them in," said Tullis.

Open classes are open to any one of any age. You don't even have to be a resident of the county. Animals can be pure or mixed breeds, and they can be any small animal. Tullis stressed, however, that the animals do have to be cared for by their owners during their stay. Cages have to be cleaned every morning, even in the open division.

Animals are received Wednesday, August 15, between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and released Saturday evening, August 18. Tullis said if there were children who wanted to show their animals but didn't want to leave them, they would be allowed to take them home.

Small animals are also good introduction animals for 4-H members.

Loren and Kathryn Unruh have the "Hillhoppers" small animal group in Heppner. Their members are Kelsey Wolff, rabbits, Kate Kendrick, rabbits, Charlene Houweling, chicken, and Emily, Meaghan and Anna Unruh, who all have rabbits.

Members put a lot of time into their 4-H animals. Hillhoppers have meetings monthly throughout the school year, then meet weekly before fair to prepare.

Kathryn has been involved in small animals for eight years. "It's fun and not so competitive as the

large market animals," said Kathryn. "The animals are pets they can have all year." Many club members keep their animals for several years.

Emily Unruh has Mini Rexes. "I wanted a small rabbit who'd make a good pet," said Emily. "Mini Rexes are small, about four to five pounds. They have soft fur, shorter guard hairs. They're also known as velveteens, because of the feel of their fur."

4-H animals may be shown in showmanship classes as well as confirmation. In showmanship the handlers pose the animals on tables. The handlers have to show they can pick up and handle the animals. They're asked questions on their knowledge of the animals, their diseases or confirmation. The judges can and do ask almost anything about the animals.

Patti McNary's Paws and Claws group in Lone includes members Kim Morris, Miranda Hunt and Kara Clay, all of whom have rabbits, Shannon Clay, guinea pigs, and William McNary and Whitney McNary, both pigeons.

This is Patti's first year as leader. From September Paws and Claws meets once a month. In January they go to every other week and, starting in July, they meet every week.

Most of her members have both show and open class animals and exhibit in both divisions.

In the 4-H confirmation classes scores are based strictly on the animal, not on the handler.

For more information, contact LaRae Kindle, 541-676-9474, or Becky Tullis, 541-422-7114.

So, what are rock doves and covies? Pigeons are also known as rock doves and guinea pigs are also known as covies.



Front row (left to right): Kelsey Wolff's Havana rabbit Felicity, Anna Unruh and her Mini-Rex Alyssa, Charlene Houweling and her Barred Rock Ms. Bawk. Back row (left to right): Kelsey Wolff and her Peruvian Cavy (guinea pig) Caramel, Emily Unruh and her Mini-Rex Dove, and Meaghan Unruh and her Mini-Rex Mia. Not pictured: Kate Kendrick.

Always room for one more...

We go to the Morrow County Fair to look at the flowers, watch the 4-H members compete and check out the livestock. But there is no doubt that fair is always more fun if we are part of the event.

There is still time to participate. The fair opens to the public on August 15, but exhibits are accepted on Monday, August 13. "Turn through your Morrow County Fair Premium Book right now and look at all the opportunities to be part of the fun," said Bill Broderick, 4-H and livestock agent.

Exhibitors may enter vegetables, fruits and flowers from their gardens, wearable art and needlework. Don't overlook the chance to exhibit home-preserved foods—just be sure to use up-to-date recommendations for processing. Current USDA recommendations for canning are available at Oregon State University Extension Office in the Gilliam-Bisbee Office Building, Heppner.

"Be an exhibitor at the 2001 Morrow County Fair," said Broderick. "It's easier than you think."

Plaque given in memory of Jane Rawlins

In memory of Jane Rawlins, a long-time fair exhibitor and supporter, the Morrow County Fair Board is sponsoring a rotating plaque for the "Best Floral Arrangement" in her name.

Jane exhibited in the Flower Department for many years, was a fair superintendent, served on the Fair Committee, was the first woman appointed to the Fair Board and served many years as a merit rater for the Oregon Fair Association and was a merit rater for county fairs on the state level.

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Plenty of food at the fair

There is always lots of food at the Morrow County Fair.

How about a piece of mouth-watering homemade pie during your visit to fair? The ladies of the Nazarene Church will be happy to oblige, as they have been keeping busy these days making a variety of fruit pies.

This will be the fourth year fair-goers will be able to stop by the kitchen in the pavilion and enjoy a piece of pie.

The Willow Valley Service Club will offer two items for your enjoyment, taco salad and baked potatoes. These ladies will be in the pavilion kitchen starting at 4 p.m. each day.

The Heppner Senior Citizens Center will be selling ice cream cones and root beer floats featuring delicious Tillamook Ice Cream (donated by the Tillamook Creamery Association).

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