

4-H and Morrow County school districts, working together

Morrow County Extension has been cooperating in three schools in Morrow County-Boardman, Heppner and Ione-to provide educational opportunities for their students.

The schools in Morrow County are on a four-day school week. 4-H has been providing a Friday morning "4-H Fun Friday" for the Sam Boardman Elementary Students. Working with three school program assistants and planning with the principal, they decided to supplement math and reading skills in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. It includes providing a nutritional snack for the 40-

50 students involved every Friday. The students also learn about the importance of good nutrition and exercise during the 4-H Fun Friday.

At Heppner High School, high school students have an opportunity to learn about GPS/GIS technology through a cooperative effort. 4-H received a grant to purchase GPS/GIS software and curriculum, which is used by a technology teacher in the high school for students interested in technology. Students using this curriculum will also be 4-H members. Twelve GPS units were provided by Morrow County Court to

help with this project. There is also an opportunity to cooperate with the OSU Range Department in the future to provide assistance to farmers or ranchers interested in having their property mapped.

The Ione School District is providing natural resource education in K through 12th grades. They had a greenhouse and some projects started, but were severely under funded. With a grant, 4-H was able to help Ione Schools complete some of their projects so students could start receiving the 4-H model of "hands on education" in natural resources. The students involved in this project also

become 4-H members as group in school participation. We are excited about the opportunity for participation at fair with many of the plants they are growing.

Both the Heppner and Ione projects have a large community service component in the programs.

4-H expands programming

Morrow County 4-H has a total of 258 members and 41 leaders participating in the 4-H youth development program. There are 269 members utilizing 4-H programming in areas of school enrichment, after school programs and leadership.

This is truly a win-win situation for 4-H, the schools and the communities.

Bill Broderick, 4-H faculty member in Morrow County, is working with the schools to provide 4-H educational programs for both high school and elementary students in Morrow County.

For many years, Morrow County 4-H served the needs of its youth with the traditional 4-H program. In the past, that was appropriate and additional programming was not needed. Three years ago an outreach program for underserved youth, coming from different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, was added to address the changing demographics at the north end of Morrow County.

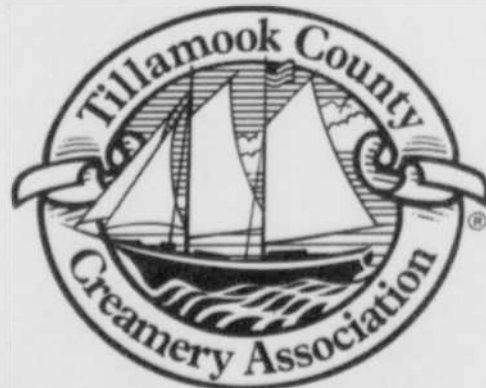
As our county continues to change, we found a real need to add "Ag in the Classroom" to the curriculum for all of our small rural towns. As we watch the changing communities in Morrow County, we see most of the youth going to school living in town and not on farms or ranches as in the past. "Ag in the Classroom" will help to keep all the youth in our small rural communities aware of agriculture and its contribution to society.

Volunteers needed

The Fair always needs volunteers to help the Superintendents in each department. If you would like to volunteer your time you can call the Superintendents listed in each department or call the Fair Office at 676-9474.

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