

Fair more fun if you're involved

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 13, but exhibits are accepted on Monday, August 11. Turn through your Morrow County Fair Premium Book right now and look at all the opportunities to be part of the fun.

Be an exhibitor at the 2014 Morrow County Fair; it's easier than you think.



4-H swine showman

What is 4-H?

What is 4-H? It is friends, fun, and learning about nature, cooking, growing plants, photography, animal care, or working together to help others; 4-H is Positive Youth Development.

Who can belong to 4-H? - Anyone Kindergarten through 12th grade. You'll find 4-H throughout your county, state, country, and the world. Kindergarteners through third graders can join 4-H Cloverbud clubs. 4-H Cloverbuds is an informal educational program designed specifically for children in grades K-3. The program appeals to young children's natural curiosity, enthusiasm for learning, and high energy levels by providing an opportunity for active learning in a non-competitive environment. In Morrow County, there are roughly 235 4-H members and volunteer leaders.

What you can do in 4-H? - Members can be enrolled in animal science, natural science, home economics, leadership and public speaking, sciences and expressive arts project

areas, just to name a few. A project list is available at the 4-H office. If you can think of it - 4-H will try to make it happen.

What do you do in 4-H? - It depends on yourself and what you make of your 4-H experience! 4-H members may be a friend in the same grade or school, or include people from other communities. Clubs decide how often to meet and elect officers to conduct club business. Your club may decide to be active in the community, raise money for charity, become involved in recycling projects or build nature trails. Members can go on field trips or to 4-H camp. The choices and opportunities for leadership and advancement grow as you get older!

Does 4-H cost a lot? - There are no national dues or required uniform. The state requires a \$18 per member enrollment fee, \$36 family maximum, which goes to help county 4-H programs such as lowering costs of state publications. There is an additional \$5 per member county enrollment fee that

goes towards project materials and insurance in most clubs. Your 4-H club may decide to collect dues to fund special activities. Scholarships are available for enrollment fees if needed.

How do you join 4-H? - It's easy. Choose the project you like, ask some friends or brothers and sisters to join you. Ask parents, grandparents, adult friends, or neighborhood adults to be your leader. Several adults can share this responsibility. You need only two members, but you can have as many as you like. Or you can also study the project independently on your own with the supervision and assistance from an adult leader. Determine the projects your club would like to enroll in and visit the Extension office or call the 4-H agent for help. There are also numerous active clubs that welcome new members.

4-H is Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow and "Learning by Doing." - Learning how to set goals and work toward those goals; responsibility -- for an animal, finishing projects, choosing how much to learn and deciding how involved in 4-H to be; leadership, decision-making, cooperation and how to present yourself and ideas to others. For information about the 4-H Youth Development program, contact the OSU Extension office in Heppner, 541-676-9642.

As we approach fair time let's all try to keep in perspective what we are trying to accomplish with the 4-H program and projects. Winning is not to be the goal, but instead doing the very best we can. If 4-H members have worked hard on their projects all year, recognition for their hard work will eventually happen.

Have a great Fair and good luck to all.

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Top row: Lorne Becker, Steve Malcom, Kiley Gardiner, Nancy Coles, Julia McLaughlin, Jana Whitten, Greg McLaughlin, Tony Devine. Bottom row: Sam Sams, Todd Kligel, Leroy VanCleave, Jared Escadero, Mac VanWagoner, Lance Lott, Dan Deist, Ryan Matteson, Levi Sustaita, Quinn Peck, Daniel Kemp

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