

4-H Leaders Work Behind The Scene to Help Area Youth

The Jackson county 4-H program, like others in the state, is somewhat like a play production. You see the youngsters performing but you don't see all the work behind the scenes.

The "stagehands" doing this work are 118 adult 4-H leaders. "It's for the kids" seems to be their motto.

Oregon State college once made a survey of the time, money and effort contributed by these leaders. Average donation per leader a year is \$385, according to the OSC survey. Many leaders here contribute much more than that.

This money is not donated like a donation to church or to a charity. It's a dollar here and a dollar there as the need arises. A lot of money is spent on gas and oil in hauling the 4-H'ers from their homes to a meeting place, to a 4-H pre-fair, horse show or camp out.

Busy Morning

During one of the recent pre-fairs, for instance, some of the 4-H leaders who are farmers were up at 5 a.m. They hustled through their chores. Then they loaded their trucks with their own youngsters' stock and drove to other

4-H homes picking up heifers, steers, rabbits and chickens, then drove into the pre-fair site.

With some help from the youngsters, the livestock was either herded or carried from the trucks or trailers. Another leader may have volunteered to bring the hay and feed. He probably donated most of it.

Then there is always the "hard core" of the leader group which is always on hand to coax a balky steer from the trailer, repair a show halter, to show a child how to curry his pet, help put up the food concession booths

and generally keep the 4-H program running smoothly.

Once the 4-H program was run strictly for farm children. Now it has spread to suburban and even a large number of city homes.

Some Occupations

Besides farmers leaders will be lawyers, dentists, doctors, investment brokers, retail merchants and bankers, to mention a few of the represented occupations. Through the program a number of friendships have sprung up between parents and families. Without the leaders being aware of it the 4-H program has probably done more than anything else to create a better understanding between city residents and farmers.

The program has even helped smooth over some community differences. During recent inter-community strife over school district reorganization it wasn't unusual to see people from both factions sitting side by side on the bleachers at the county fairsgrounds watching their youngsters perform. "We found out we got along fine as long as we talked about nothing but 4-H," one of the mothers remarked.

And the mothers probably contribute most of all to the leadership program. They help with the 4-H home economics

events. They assist with the cooking and sewing projects, cook and bake for the food concessions at the pre-fairs, prepare food for the various 4-H outings and even help load and unload livestock, feed them and water them. When a child complains, "Aw, I'm too tired to do that right now!" You know who pitches in and gets the job done.

Prevent Delinquency

The adult leaders feel they are directly helping to prevent juvenile delinquency by working in the 4-H program. "I don't know of any 4-H club member who has been in the Jackson county juvenile detention home while active in 4-H," one adult leader remarked.

These men and women learn with their youngsters. Mothers learn new and quicker ways to prepare food so they can teach their 4-H youngsters when they help with projects. Even veteran stockmen learn about new breeds and methods of raising and handling livestock. "Why my kid knows more about picking out good animals than I do," one member of the livestock industry commented.

"This 4-H business is a family program. Parents live with and work with their kids. It's different than other youth programs that way. Sure, the kids suffer disappointments when they don't win the ribbons they're after and some parents are worse than their kids that way. But everybody learns while doing," one father and 4-H leader remarked. "Sure, I have a kid in the program and I'm a leader. But I would be anyway. It's a great program for the kids," he added.

Many leaders and parents feel the program gives the youngsters the early business training they need to develop good businesslike habits. Local banks have set up loans for youngsters who borrow money to buy livestock. Many

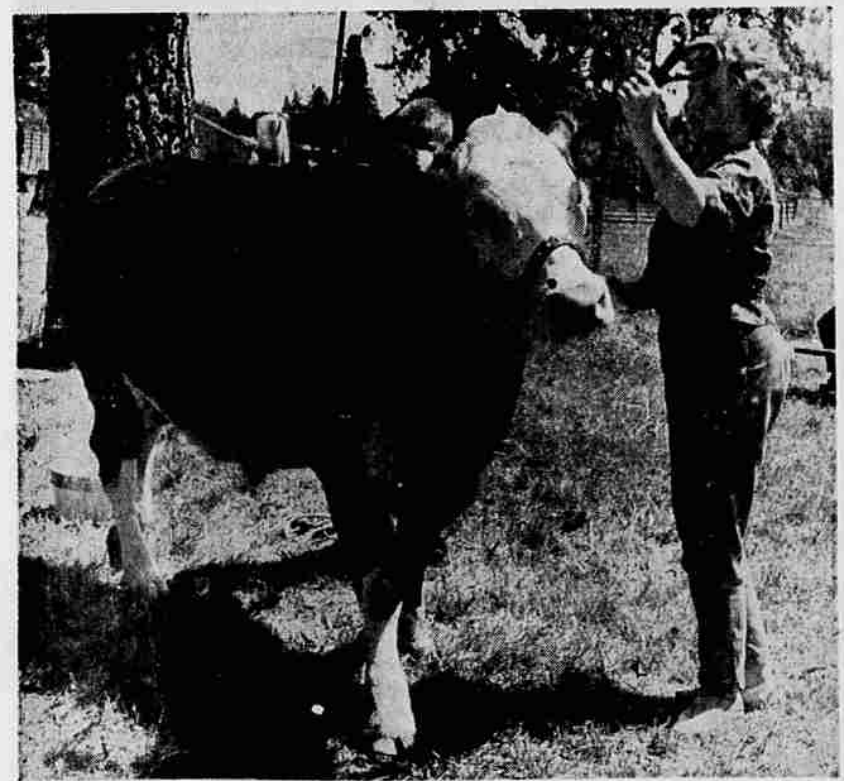
youngsters have taken out a number of such loans, always paying them back. The money 4-H and FFA fair auction buys school clothes, provides college funds.

"Best of all, the kids learn to get along together. They visit around and compare notes on their different projects. Even at the county fair

where you have a large number of boys and girls together very little supervision is needed. They learn how to behave and know what is expected of them," a leader said.



TRACTOR MAINTENANCE—Several Phoenix boys get some practical experience in tractor maintenance with Jack Dube, Phoenix FFA advisor and vo-ag instructor supervising. From left: Dube, Ricky Bole, Phoenix FFA sophomore, Kenny Harris, Phoenix, an interested onlooker, Butch Bowman, Phoenix FFA sophomore, peering over the tire and Curt Harris, Phoenix FFA junior, kneeling beside Dube. Curt had accidentally run a hardwood sliver through the tractor tire. It was patched and was being put back on the tractor when this picture was taken in a grain field near Phoenix.



PARADES HEREFORD—Laqueta Stephenson, Reese Creek 4-H club member, parades her Hereford during one of the recent pre-fairs held to determine who of the hundreds of 4-H'ers would center the Jackson County 4-H and FFA fair next week. These youngsters buy their own feed and care for their animals themselves. The annual auction held at the end of the fair pays them for their labors and puts some money in the bank for their future college education or farm projects.

Railroads Approve Rate for Wheat

Portland—UPI—Seven transcontinental railroads have approved a rate of 81 cents per hundredweight on movement of wheat for export from the western Great Plains area to Pacific Coast ports, the Oregon Department of Planning and Development reported.

Portland export firms who had sought a reduction to 70 cents from the present rate of 98½ cents said the 81 cent rate would enable them to compete at least part of the time for some 300,000 tons in Japanese purchases of hard red winter wheat.

Action of the railroad who previously had turned down a request for a 70 cent rate followed intervention by Gov. Mark Hatfield who sent wires urging the cut be made.

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North African Bird Appears in N.J.

Cape May, N.J.—A team of naturalists wants to study a new type of New Jersey customer—a bird from North Africa that suddenly turned up here.

The bird is the cattle egret, a type that forsakes water for the company of cattle. It feeds on insects stirred up by the cattle. Birdwatchers say they would like to find out how the cattle egrets got this far north.

A Salute to All 4-H & FFA Members

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