

4-H Clubs Do Excellent Job Of Building Better Rural Citizens

By NORM CARDOZA

The famous 4-H Club is to youngsters who live in rural areas what Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls organizations are to urban-dwelling youth.

The basic objective of all those youth groups is to build better citizens for tomorrow.

In Klamath County, since its rural area is immense and even its city dwellers have the feel of the soil, the influence of 4-H is particularly strong.

During 1960 about 700 youngsters were enrolled in 822 4-H projects, including 43 diverse categories. Among agricultural projects, sheep were most popular and in home economics, clothing.

A total of 96 volunteer local leaders worked with 56 clubs during the year. Their cumulative years in 4-H leadership totaled 415. Rex High of Olney was the senior leader with 24 years of service.

Club work began in Klamath County in 1915 under leadership of Harold Glasier, county agricultural agent. Enrollment has increased steadily, especially since World War II.

The future looks even better. A substantial number of youngsters are showing interest in joining a club, say leaders.

The club is a youth education program offered by the Oregon State College extension service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and various counties and cities.

All states and some 49 foreign countries have 4-H clubs or similar organizations totaling 2,250,000 members. Locally, the work is administered by the county extension service and volunteer leaders and sponsors.

Professional extension agents here are Francis Skinner and Carol Armstrong. Both are resident members of the OSC staff. Their job is to bring to leaders the latest information from research concerning better practices in agriculture, home economics and community living.

They supply bulletins and project books needed and conduct training meetings for leaders.

Each club consists of five or more youngsters — boys and girls — from nine years of age through 21, under guidance of a volunteer adult leader. Members elect their own officers, and conduct their own meetings, projects and special club events.

Some clubs have junior leaders — older club members who

Poncha Spring, located at Salida, Colo., reaches a temperature of 168 degrees.

take over some leadership responsibility.

Specifically, the objective is to teach skills, cooperation, thor-

ness, and the desire for self-improvement.

Projects are so varied that practically all youngsters can find a subject of interest — including those who live in the city. Altogether, 70 projects are available.

Some significant ones developed over the last few years; of special interest to youngsters everywhere, are:



FRANCIS SKINNER has been county 4-H Club extension agent since 1946. He was born in Bartlesville, Okla., and was graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor of science degree in animal husbandry. He and his wife, Marion, and children, Steven, 14; Scott, 12; Kenneth, 11, and Joanne, 6, live in the Henley area.

oughness, determination, desirable ideals and standards of home and community life and citizenship.

Apart from the regular program, 4-H members in the county

take part in four very special activities. They are the 4-H summer camp at Crescent Lake, 4-H summer school at Oregon State College, spring and fall 4-H fairs and Oregon 4-H Club Conference.

At camp, youngsters enjoy themselves while learning crafts, water safety and other subjects. Nearly 100 youngsters attend each summer.

During summer school members spend a week on the OSC campus attending classes of interest and living in fraternity or

1. Electricity. Members work at first with low voltage and as they learn, progress to higher voltages. They may ultimately progress to complex wiring problems.

2. Wildlife. The study includes archery, fishing, and gun safety. Not only do members practice the sports, they learn some life sciences, conservation practices, safety and hunting etiquette.

3. Automotive work. A progressive series of projects of special interest to teenagers teaches them automotive mechanics, highway safety, care and maintenance, economy and driving procedures.

4. Child development. Girls 9 to 11 learn to take care of children and develop "fun friends." Older girls learn more about children by studying their growth, habits and characteristics at various ages.

5. "Empire Builders." Teenagers learn community service and improvement. Members also have fun planning and carrying out group recreational activities.

During summer school members

Exhibits are judged and premiums and ribbons awarded to winners. Winners attend the state fair, in which their projects are entered.

The annual 4-H conference is conducted at Salem. Two outstanding members from each county attend to learn about state government first-hand.

Various other club tours, field days and events are arranged throughout the year by each club, and sometimes by groups of clubs.



TWO ENTERPRISING FUTURE FARMERS are shown hard at work at the task of getting their animals ready for the annual FFA 4-H Junior Livestock Show and Sale held in late August each year at the Klamath County Fairgrounds. The animals all show the result of careful grooming such as this when they are judged, and later when they enter the sales ring. The 1960 event was the 25th annual show and sale, sponsored by the Klamath Falls Rotary Club.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (Farmer Sales Value)											
Klamath Basin											
Commodity	1923	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Livestock											
Sheep & Wool	640,000	575,000	650,000	801,000	381,600	640,000	727,800	946,000	1,673,900	1,543,000	1,524,200
Beef	600,000	1,105,000	800,000	1,405,000	4,059,500	7,100,000	5,473,500	5,795,500	6,699,000	8,440,000	8,360,000
Dairy	230,000	800,000	520,000	449,000	887,500	977,000	865,000	990,600	1,050,000	1,111,900	918,000
Poultry	80,000	215,250	310,000	326,000	926,500	1,330,500	909,500	914,000	811,000	713,500	860,500
Hogs	67,500	280,000	140,000	215,000	300,000	202,500	202,500	174,000	184,500	183,400	160,000
Bees, Pigs, etc.		60,000	20,000	101,500	175,000	162,000	180,000	160,000	150,000	150,000	160,000
Total Livestock	1,637,500	3,035,250	2,440,000	3,200,500	6,730,100	10,613,500	8,355,300	8,980,500	10,869,500	12,140,800	11,782,700
Crops											
Hay, Alfalfa	540,000	825,000	890,000	727,000	2,169,858	2,715,193	4,292,719	3,734,300	2,996,000	4,553,000	5,337,000
All Kinds	60,000	1,312,000	1,850,000	2,959,257	10,229,672	6,345,955	6,140,800	6,830,592	8,512,544	5,499,576	13,340,000
Potatoes									10,492	8,632	10,334**
Carloads Shipped											
Grain	600,000	500,000	955,000	1,330,634	4,954,016	8,122,765	7,552,062	7,296,944	8,915,420	9,031,770	8,964,614
Seed Crops											
Truck Crops		150,000		130,000	432,035	945,942	1,565,190	1,238,400	1,060,530	1,123,757	945,700
Onions					110,000	547,400	200,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	155,000
Miscellaneous					40,500	499,673	61,982	284,432	380,000	353,700	754,500
Total Crops	1,200,000	2,787,000	3,870,000	5,666,146	19,346,561	19,012,705	19,181,581	19,230,236	22,080,494	19,826,803	28,177,614
Total Crops & Livestock	2,837,500	5,822,250	6,310,000	8,866,646	26,076,661	29,626,205	27,536,881	28,210,736	32,949,994	31,967,603	40,760,314
1923 to 1959, incl.											
Highest Livestock Year - Klamath Basin	1958	12,140,800									
Lowest "	1923	1,637,500									
Highest Crop Year	1952	34,431,984									
Lowest Crop Year	1923	1,200,000									
Highest Crop & Livestock Year - Klamath Basin	1952-54	44,015,224									
Lowest "	1923	2,837,500									
Highest Livestock Year - Klamath County	1958	11,640,000 (Est.)									
Highest Crop Year Klamath County	1952	19,100,000 (Est.)									

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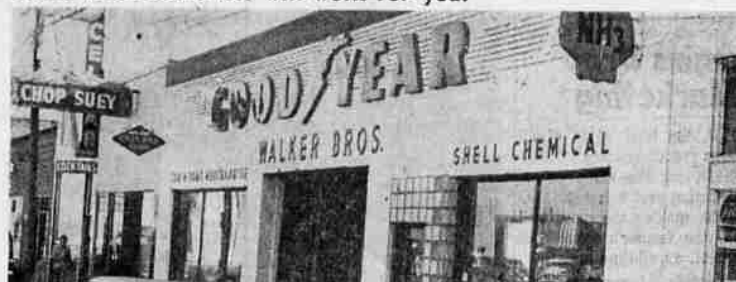


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