



4-H Clover Connection

End of Year Giving Can Benefit Oklahoma 4-Her's

The Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development program has made a difference in the lives of thousands of Oklahoma youth. Youth not only gain life skills through experiential learning opportunities, but they can earn scholarships for higher education thanks to generous donations to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. Milford Jenkins, 4-H Foundation executive director, said donations of unrestricted gifts play a crucial role in the Foundation's annual operations budget.

"These dollars can be allocated by the organization's board of directors to support 4-H youth activities such as Citizenship Washington Focus, State 4-H Roundup, ATV Safety Training, Enhancement Grants for county 4-H clubs and other related programming priorities this year," Jenkins said. "One highlight of how \$25,000 in unrestricted charitable gifts made an indelible impact on our 4-H family was providing support to the 2023 Oklahoma 4-H Parent/Volunteer Conference that took place in June." This event brought together parents and volunteers for hands-on learning and sharing information and programming that is making a difference across the state.

"The donation of these unrestricted dollars has a ripple effect within the 4-H program," Jenkins said. "In this case, parents and volunteers came together and were able to glean new ideas that have proven to be successful in other counties and take them home to implement in their local programs, resulting in more and more 4-H youth being reached."

At the 102nd State 4-H Roundup that took place in July, more than \$146,000 in education scholarships were presented to club members in recognition of their excellence in project work. This money all comes from the benevolent donors to the 4-H Foundation.

Abby Logan, a 4-H'er from Payne County, said she has been blessed to receive various scholarships from the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. "These scholarships have allowed me to begin my college education studying natural resource ecology and management," Logan said. "It has been a goal of mine to pay for my college education myself, either through work or scholarships. The scholarships I've received through 4-H are allowing me to do just that. I couldn't be more grateful for the countless individuals and donors who make these scholarships possible and allow youth like me to earn a successful start to higher education."

Donors also have the opportunity to restrict charitable gifts to support a particular county's 4-H program and activities through the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. Jenkins indicated this is accomplished through the county's G-Account at the Foundation. "G-Accounts were established in the early 2000s to provide donors a platform to restrict their support to 4-H programs and activities in their home county or county(ies) of interest," he said. "All 77 counties have a G-Account and donors can denote the county(ies) where they want their gift to go at the time they make the gift. Before making your gift, visit your County Extension Director (CED) and 4-H educator(s) to learn about your local and county 4-H clubs' current funding needs that can be met by your charitable gift to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. Sponsoring 4-H youth and activities in a particular county can be very meaningful to 4-H alumni, businesses and other stakeholders with close ties to that particular county."

Donors can also provide major gifts to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, including the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, through their Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Jenkins said donors age 70½ may use a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) to donate up to \$100,000 to qualified charities. For married couples, if both individuals are 70½ years of age, each spouse can exclude up to \$100,000 from their gross incomes for a total of \$200,000 to qualified charities. QCDs are paid directly from the IRA to the charity. Donors are encouraged to consult with their legal or tax advisors about this charitable giving strategy. "For those planning their estates, the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation can be named as a charitable beneficiary as a testament to how much the 4-H program meant to them as a youth growing up," he said.

Jenkins is available to visit with people who are interested in contributing to 4-H. The establishment of permanent endowments, charitable provisions for 4-H in estate plans, and giving outright cash gifts or appreciated securities annually are just a few of the charitable giving strategies available to donors who want to support 4-H youth in Oklahoma.

Giving end-of-year charitable cash gifts to support 4-H youth is easy, simple and no different than any other time of the year. Simply write a check payable to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation and mail to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, 505 Agricultural Hall, Stillwater, OK. 74078; visit the Foundation's website at oklahoma4hfoundation.com and click the Donate button; or call Jenkins on campus at 405-744-5390 or cellphone at 816-390-4357, or email at milford.jenkins@okstate.edu.

Major and Blaine Counties OSU Cooperative Extension Service

Address

Major County:
500 E. Broadway, Courthouse Suite 3
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

Blaine County:
212 N. Weigle Ave, Suite 101 Courthouse
Watonga, Oklahoma 73772

Phone

580-227-3786 (Major Co.)
580-623-5195 (Blaine Co.)

Educators Email

Dana Baldwin, FCS/4-H & CED
dana.baldwin@okstate.edu
James Syzamore, Ag/4-H
james.syzamore@okstate.edu

Website

www.extension.okstate.edu/county/major
www.extension.okstate.edu/county/major

Facebook

Major County 4-H
Blaine County OSU Extension

In this issue:

Page 2:
Holiday Bazaar Concession Stand
Countywide Meetings
State Service Projects
Welcome New Educators
Public Speaking Contest
District Livestock Judging Contest

Page 3:
District Speech Contest
District Volunteer Conference
Shooting Sports Instructor Training
ATV Riders Safety Course
County Jr. Livestock Show
and Concession Stand

HOLIDAY BAZAAR CONCESSION STAND

The annual Blaine County Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 2 at the fairgrounds in Watonga and Blaine County 4-H will once again be providing the concession stand. The work schedule is as follows:

8-11:00 a.m.– Okeene 4-H

11:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.– Watonga 4-H

1-4:00 p.m.– Canton 4-H

If the times that your club is scheduled doesn't work for you, please come when you can. (Any enrolled Geary member is welcome to come help as well.)



COUNTYWIDE 4-H MEETINGS

Beginning in 2024, Blaine and Major Counties will meet together quarterly for countywide meetings for volunteer leaders, parents, county officers, and members. These meetings will be held on the following Mondays– January 22, April 22, July 22, and October 28. These meetings will rotate between locations to be announced within both counties.

We would like to have a community service activity and a leadership activity at each of meetings as well. Be watching for more information to come.



STATE SERVICE PROJECTS

“Change for Change”

Change collected benefits the Oklahoma Children’s Hospital Foundation for supporting specialties such as cancer, genetics, autism, and infectious diseases. Collect change at your 4-H meetings or other events and turn it in to the OSU Extension Center where it will then be sent to the State 4-H Office.

“Pull for Kids”

Collect pop tabs to support the Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House. Turn tabs into the OSU Extension Center. You are encouraged to collect the entire can and use the money to support your 4-H club, but we only want the tabs turned in to us. The tabs will then be sold and the money turned in to the State 4-H Office.



OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Welcome new OSU Extension Educators James and Shelby!

I am pleased to have two new Educators in Blaine and Major Counties:

James Syzemore joined us on October 23 as Extension Educator-Ag/4-H.

Shelby Robertson is joining us on November 27 as Extension Educator- 4-H.

We’ll make a great team, and I’m looking forward to the opportunities that will be available to you.

Dana Baldwin

Extension Educator– FCS/4-H & CED

COUNTY PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

This contest will be held on Sunday, January 28 beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Okeene (exact location TBA) for both Blaine and Major Counties..



The contest is divided into:

- * *Regular Talks* — no props (5 - 7 minutes)
- * *Illustrative Presentations* — using pictures or posters, models, charts, and animals. Includes presentations showing final completed products. (5–7 minutes)
- * *Power Point Presentations* (5–7 minutes)

The deadline to enter this contest will be Tuesday, January 23. Entry forms will be available at the OSU Extension Centers.

NW DISTRICT 4-H & FFA LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

The NW District 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging Contest is scheduled for Monday, January 22 in Enid. More details will be available later.

District 4-H Speech Contest

The West District 4-H Speech Contest is Saturday, February 10 at the Pleasant View Mennonite Church – 94948 N 2450 Rd., Hydro. Registration is due no later than January 24 so please let us know if you are interested. If we have youth participating we will need adults to assist as a judge or a room monitor. Blaine County 4-H will pay entry fees as well.

There are categories for Animal Science; Plants, Natural and Mechanical Sciences; Family, Consumer, and social Science; and Communication & Expressive/Visual Art. The types of presentations and the time limits are the same as our county contest. Please call the office for more information as needed.

District Volunteer Conference

A District 4-H Volunteer Conference will also be held Saturday, February 10 beginning at 12:00 Noon at the Pleasant View Mennonite Church in Hydro. Work-shops scheduled at this time are: STEM–Dry Ice, STEM – Drones & Robotics, Scholarships, Civic Engagement/Leadership/Service Learning, Photography, Etiquette & More. The registration cost for her Volunteer Conference is \$15.00 which includes lunch. This is a great opportunity for Leaders and Par-ents to take advantage of. Registration for this is due to the District Office by January 27th. Please call the office if you are interested in attending.



Shooting Sports Level 1 Instructor Training

A 4-H Shooting Sports Level 1 instructor training will be March 23-24 at the Oklahoma City Gun Club. Volunteers must have completed the volunteer certification process for 4-H BEFORE registering for the class. Contact us if you are interested—it would be great to get a shooting sports program going for Blaine County 4-H members again!

ATV Riders Safety Course

Are you interested in participating in an ATV Riders Safety Course at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau/ Oklahoma 4-H training facility in Guthrie with your club? Groups can be a maximum of 8 riders at a time. Call the OSU Extension Center for more details.

2024 Blaine County Jr. Livestock Show



The Blaine County Jr. Livestock Show is Saturday and Sunday February 17 and 18 and the Bonus Auction is Tuesday, February 20.

Swine, Goats and Sheep must be in place Friday by 5:00 p.m. and Cattle must be in place by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

The show schedule is:

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. Swine Show

11:00 a.m. Goat and Sheep Show

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. Cattle Show

The Bonus Auction schedule is:

Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Dinner

6:15 p.m. Introductions and Special Awards

6:30 p.m. Auction

REMEMBER you must wear a collared shirt with a 4-H emblem while showing. If you do not have a 4-H Shirt, we have patches available at the Extension Office that can be sewn on a shirt. Just come by the office to purchase one for \$3.00.

Blaine County Stock Show Concession Stand

This is our main fundraiser for Blaine County 4-H so please help out.

Each club is responsible for bringing 6 dozen snacks to sell. Please bring them prewrapped, example one brownie, two cookies, rice crispy treat.

The work schedule is as follows:

Saturday:

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.– Okeene

12:30 p.m. to close– Watonga

Sunday:

1:00 p.m. to close– Canton

Also, if you would like to donate any amount of ground beef to make the chili and taco meat for the concession stand, please us know. We need a total of 35 pounds.

Are you into it?

"4-H Clover Connection" is published on a regular basis at the Major and Blaine Counties OSU Cooperative Extension Centers. This newsletter is just one way of communicating educational information to the citizens of those counties. Oklahoma State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Governments Cooperating. *Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service:* Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions. For more information, visit <https://eeo.okstate.edu>

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President for Agricultural Programs and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$14.00.

Editors:

Dana Baldwin

Extension Educator

Family & Consumer Sciences/4-H Youth Development
and County Extension Director

e-mail: dana.baldwin@okstate.edu

James Syzamore

Extension Educator

Agriculture/4-H Youth Development

e-mail: james.syzamore@okstate.edu



Blaine County OSU Extension
212 N. Weigle Ave., Suite 101 Courthouse
Watonga, Oklahoma 73772