



4-H Clover Connection

Pottawatomie County 4-H'er has a big heart for project work

Pottawatomie County 4-H'er Grace Hobbs has a big heart and she's hoping to make a difference to nursing home residents across the state this Valentine's Day – and she's hoping Oklahoma 4-H'ers will want to help.

Hobbs, a member of the North Rock Creek 4-H Club, began creating Valentine's cards for local nursing homes in Shawnee two years ago. The first year she took cards to nine nursing homes and the project grew to 16 nursing homes the next year. In 2024, Hobbs would love to see nursing home residents in all 77 counties get Valentine cards, and she's offering free card kits to help make this project as big as possible.

Hobbs delivered 500 cards in 2022 and doubled that amount in 2023. With the help of 4-H'ers across the state, she is hoping for 2,000 or more cards to be delivered to Oklahoma nursing home residents for Valentine's Day in 2024.

"I think this is important because nursing home residents deserve to be loved and it's a great way for 4-H'ers to be involved in their communities," Hobbs said.

This project started after a conversation with her aunt who is the director of rehabilitation in a nursing home. Hobbs said her aunt told her about how the nursing home residents feel lonely a lot of the time.

"They get lots of visitors at Christmas, but the rest of the winter can be sad for them. This is one way we can help brighten their days," she said.

Hobbs is making Valentine card kits, free of charge, for any 4-H'er or 4-H club who wants them. The kit includes lacing hearts, needles, yarn, construction paper and a link to an instructional video. Use this link to place orders and this link contains additional information about Hobbs' project and what steps club members need to take in their counties.

"This project just really warms my heart. When I delivered the cards, some of the residents told me stories about when they were involved in 4-H," Hobbs said. "I hope other 4-H'ers who participate learn that helping people is important."

Hobbs said she is thankful to her family and friends who donated the supplies needed to make the card kits so she can offer them free of charge to 4-H'ers who want to participate. Kacie Jasper, Oklahoma State University Extension 4-H educator in Pottawatomie County, said she will bring the kits to OSU Extension's Biennial Conference in Stillwater that takes place Jan. 10-12 for educators to pick up. Orders must be placed by Jan. 5 to be picked up in Stillwater.

"It's exciting as an educator when a member is able to identify needs in the community and comes up with a plan to meet those needs and connect it to their 4-H project," Jasper said. "Grace is involved in the fabrics and fashions project and she has been able to connect the dots between basic sewing skills she has learned, teaching others and meeting a need in the community by bringing joy to nursing home residents." Providing hands-on learning opportunities has been the backbone of the 4-H Youth Development program since it started. These learning opportunities help youth develop skills they'll use throughout their lives. Jasper said when club members interact with the nursing home residents who often may not get the same kind of daily interaction and socialization they once had, it's beneficial to the residents, but also the club members.

"The daily lives of youth are typically busy, and having youth take time to slow down and build connections with another generation reminds us of how important it is to show others they are valued and not forgotten," she said. "We can learn from each other."

Hobbs is utilizing the skills she learned through her fabrics and fashions project, and she's now teaching those skills others. She's developing her written and verbal communication skills, as well as learning graphic design and planning skills as she develops her marketing material. In addition, she's also building her public speaking and technology skills with the development of her video tutorials.

For more information about taking part in Hobbs' Valentine project, contact Jasper at 405-273-7683 or Kacie.jasper@okstate.edu.

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COUNTY WIDE 4-H MEETING

Please plan to attend the next Countywide meeting for Major AND BLAINE members, parents and volunteers on Monday, January 22 beginning at 6:00pm at the Major county fairgrounds Expo Building. We will discuss and plan upcoming events.

HUNTER EDUCATION & SHOOTING SPORTS

We hope to be able to certify youth this spring in shotgun as we have new coaches. If you are interested, contact the OSU Extension Center so we can add your name to the list and assist with hunter education if needed.

2024

Blaine County Jr. Livestock Show

at the Blaine County Fairgrounds in Watonga

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 February 17th, 2024:

8:00 a.m. Swine Show

11:00 a.m. Goat and Sheep Show

Sunday February 18th, 2024:

1:00 p.m. Cattle Show

The Bonus Auction schedule is:

Tuesday February 20th, 2024:

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

6:15 p.m. Introductions and Special Awards

6:30 p.m. Auction

2024 Spring Dates for Livestock Exhibitors

Major County Jr. Livestock Show & Bonus Auction
February 10,11,13

Blaine County Jr. Livestock Show & Bonus Auction
February 17, 18, 20

Woodward District Jr. Livestock Show
February 16 to February 27

Enid District Jr. Livestock Show
February 27 to March 4

Oklahoma Youth Expo
March 12 to 22

2024

Major County Jr. Livestock Show

at the Major County Fairgrounds in Fairview

Saturday, February 10:

12pm- Swine entered and in place by 3:30pm

4:00pm- Swine Show

School weigh-in order:

Aline-Cleo, Fairview, Cimarron, Ringwood

Sunday, February 13:

9:00am- Sheep in place

9:30am- Goats in place

10:00am- Sheep Show

11:00am- Goat Show

12:00pm- Beef in place

1:00pm- Beef Show



Tuesday, February 14:

4:00pm- M. Nichols Award Interviews

5:30pm- Bonus Auction Meal

6:15pm- Award Presentation

6:30pm- Bonus Auction

Major 4-H Concession Stand at the Jr. Livestock Shows:

we will be deciding on the work schedules and food items needed at the January 23 Countywide Meeting. Please check with your 4-H club leader after that date for details.



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.

Dual County Public Speaking Contest

Our Dual County Public Speaking Contest is scheduled for Sunday January 28th at Okeene First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 3 PM
Check the insert for more information



District Public Speaking Contest

The West District Speech Contest starts at 9:00am on **Saturday, February 10th** at the Pleasant View Mennonite Church – 94948 N 2450 Rd., Hydro. The cost is \$5.00 per participant (team would be \$10). If we have youth participating in the speech contest, we will need to provide 2 adults to assist with the speech contest either as a judge or a room monitor. 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.

Entries are due to the District Office by **January 29th**.
Call the office for more information.

CONSUMER JUDGING CONTEST

The 4-H Consumer Judging Contest will be on Saturday **February 10th at Noon** in the Exhibit Building at the Fairgrounds.

(This is during the County Jr. Livestock Show.)

The contest will be divided into Junior and Senior classes of items such as clothing, sports drinks, games, etc.

4-H'ers will review and place the items in order of the best value for the consumer based on the given situation.

Teams (3 or 4 members) and individuals can participate.

Please RSVP to the Extension Office by **February 7th** if you plan to participate.

Contact Dana if you have questions 580-227-3786.

District Volunteer Conference

A District Volunteer Conference will also be held **Saturday, February 10th** beginning at 12:00 Noon at the Pleasant View Mennonite Church in Hydro.

Workshops scheduled at this time are: Duds to Dazzle, Livestock Project Clubs, Club Activities for 4-H Leaders, State Record Books, STEM and Small Animal Project Clubs. The registration cost for the Volunteer Conference is \$15.00 which includes lunch. This is a great opportunity for Leaders and Parents to take advantage of. Registration for this is due to the District Office by **January 29th**. Please call the office if you are interested in attending.

4-H FOOD SHOWDOWN

- ◇ Do You Like To Cook?
- ◇ Do You Like To Create Your Own Recipes?
- ◇ Do You Enjoy Watching Food Shows Or Cooking Contests On TV?

If so, you might be interested in the 4-H Food Showdown Contest.

Teams of 2 or 3 members have the opportunity to prepare a dish to present to a team of judges.

Junior teams (*grades 3 to 5*) are given a basic recipe to prepare. Grocery items from a common pantry can be used to enhance the recipe or be served with the recipe item.

Intermediate teams (*grades 6 to 8*) given a secret ingredient and category. Groups make up their own recipe.

Senior teams (*grades 9 to 12*) are given a box containing one or more secret ingredients. The secret ingredients are used along with grocery items from a common pantry to create a dish.

We will hold our County Contest on Thursday, April 25 at 6:00pm. Please RSVP by April 19.

If anyone is interested in this project, please contact Dana at the OSU Extension Center (580)227-3786 for more details.

The top two junior, intermediate and senior teams from the county can advance to the **West District 4-H Food Showdown on June 13 at Fairview.**

Meet your new 4-H Extension Educator

First things first I would like to introduce myself. My name is Shelby Robertson, and I am the new Major & Blaine County 4-H Extension Educator.

A little about me, I grew up in Dodge City, Kansas. Went to College at Northwestern Oklahoma State University where I majored in Agriculture with a minor in Business. Growing up I participated in both 4-H and FFA till I graduated from both programs.

After graduation I spent 3 years in Rush County Kansas as the 4-H Program Assistant before a short stint in banking before returning to 4-H and Extension here in Oklahoma.

A few of my favorite projects are food science (food and nutrition in KS), photography, horses, and sheep. I was a part of Ford County 4-H Council for 8 years and the Ford County 4-H Exchange group for six years where I was able to travel to Massachusetts and twice to Wisconsin. I loved getting to travel to unfamiliar places and see their 4-H programs in other states. I enjoyed going to 4-H camp at Rock Springs Ranch and then when I was old enough, I went as a camp counselor; my favorite part was always meeting others and making new friends. The Summer of 2019 I spent working with Montana State University Extension building a 4-H program for Fort Belknap Reservation. So many wonderful memories of my brief time there.

I am excited to meet the communities and immerse myself in growing and advancing the 4-H and Youth Development programming.

If you find yourself around either courthouse or see me at a 4-H Function stop by and say hi!



4-H Night at the Museum

Oklahoma 4-H is excited to announce the annual 4-H Night at the Science Museum. Join us on an Out of this World Adventure as we build and test rockets and lunar landers, explore extreme temperatures and pressures, make nebula art and eclipse viewers and much more!

This event is open to everyone, 4-H members are welcome to invite friends and family members. Interested participants must register and pay at the County Extension Office (z-suite will not be used for this event). All participants must have a copy of their current health form, this includes adult chaperones.

Date: February 2-3, 2024 : 7:00PM - 7:00AM

Location: Science Museum of Oklahoma

2020 Remington Place Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Cost: \$56.50 for Youth \$31.50 for Chaperone

Please note - refunds will not be given to those who have registered but cannot attend.

Registration Information: Participants will register and pay at the County Office. Completed transmittal forms are due by January 16, 2024

YOUR ORGANIZATIONAL CLUB LEADERS

Major County

Aline-Cleo: Kristie Newton 580-542-4120
Cimarron: Teresa Brakhage 580-554-9650
Fairview: Delane Kehnemund 580-822-5610
Stephanie Thomas 580-794-0589
Ringwood: Heather Bailey 580-216-8333

Blaine County

Canton: Alison Clark 580-791-2580
Geary: (in need of a leader) ----
Okeene: Tara Fisher 580-822-1241
Alicia Robison 580-747-6015
Mandy Spaeth 580-822-1058
Watonga: Tara Cowan 405-714-1053
Katie Scheihing 580-614-1189

Citizenship Washington Focus

Citizenship Washington Focus will be on June 17-28, 2024. This is an 11 day educational, hands on experience for 4-H members 15 and older in and around Washington DC. Youth will learn history and civic engagement using the backdrop of our nation's capital. To be eligible to attend Citizenship Washington Focus, youth must be at least 15 years of age by June 1, 2024. Transmittal forms and total payment are **due** to the State 4-H office by **February 15, 2024**. Cost for the 11 day program is \$2,500 per delegate. Contact us if interested in participating.

National 4-H Conference

National 4-H Conference is a future-focused program that aims to build strong leaders through roundtable discussions, town hall meetings, group assemblies, and visits with national legislators. Being selected to represent our state at this conference is one of Oklahoma 4-H's highest honors.

- Through an application process, three to four Oklahoma 4-H delegates will be selected to attend National 4-H Conference. April 19-24, 2024
- Applicants must be 16 years old as of January 1, 2024.
- Delegates are responsible for:
- \$500 Registration fee (Oklahoma 4-H and the OK 4-H Foundation will cover the remaining cost)
- Transportation to and from the airport
- Meals on travel days to and from Washington D.C. Lunch one day.



Applications are due no later than Midnight, Sunday, February 11- so let us know if you are interested.

State 4-H Ambassadors: The 2024 State 4-H Ambassador applications are now available and are due by March 15. Any youth currently involved in Oklahoma 4-H who is 13 years of age or older by March 15th, 2024 and still has at least one year of high school remaining is eligible to apply.

Contact us for more information.

STATE 4-H RECORD BOOKS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND KEY CLUB APPLICATIONS

4-H'ers who are currently 8th grade and up are eligible to submit a State 4-H Record book this year. If you are planning to submit a book you should contact the OSU Extension Center if you have not already! To have your books reviewed prior to completion, please have a copy of them at the OSU Extension Center by Friday, April 12.

These record books are submitted on-line and are due by Thursday, April 18.

State 4-H Scholarships and Oklahoma Key Club Applications are also due by April 18.

Contact us for information and assistance.

4-H Day at the Capitol

4-H Day at the Capitol will happen on **April 17th, 2024**. 4-H Day at the Capitol is an excellent opportunity for members to meet with State Representatives and Senators to share their 4-H story. Delegates are 13 years and older.

Each county can bring two delegates. Registration is due on February 7th so let us know soon if you are interested (first come).

2024 State 4-H Calendar

January 13 – OK Open & 4-H Horse Judges Seminar

January 20 – Payne Co. 4-H Indoor Archery

January 22 – Horse Com. Contest Entries Due

February 3 – Horse Communication Contest

February 2-3 - 4-H Night at the Science Museum

March 1-3 - 4-H Youth Innovate Summit |

March 2 – Horse Owner’s Workshop

March 11-22 – Oklahoma Youth Expo

March 23-24 – Shooting Sports Level 1 Instructor Training

April 17 – 4-H Day at the Capitol

April 18– State Record Books Due

April 19-24 – National 4-H Conference

April 27 – State 4-H Land Judging

May 4 – State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

May 4 – State 4-H Meat Judging Contest

May 14 – State Record Book Judging

June 11 – State Record Book Interviews

June 21 – State PVC pre-conference event

June 22 – State Parent Volunteer Conference

July 11-13 – State 4-H Horse Show

July 16-18 – Big Three Field Day

July 24-26 – State 4-H Roundup

Sept 11 – State 4-H OKC Fair Judging Day ***

Sept 12 - 22 - OKC State Fair

Sept 23 – OKC Exhibit Release Day***

Sept 26 – Oct 6 – Tulsa State Fair

***(non livestock exhibits)

IMPORTANT LOCAL DATES

February—10,11,13—Major County Spring Show

February- 17,18,20- Blaine County Spring Show

DUAL COUNTY WIDE MEETINGS

April 22, July 22, October 28

August 22,23,24—Blaine County Fair

September 5,6,7—Major County Fair

Please remember that all dates are subject to change

Watch Email and Facebook for the latest updates



Upcoming OYE dates

2025: March 11-21

Upcoming Roundup dates

2025: July 23-25

2026: July 22-24

Upcoming Big Three dates

2025: July 15-17

2026: July 14-16

MAJOR COUNTY FOOD SHOW

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024

Entry Time: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Judging Begins 1:00 p.m.

Exhibit Building at the Major County Fairgrounds in Fairview, Oklahoma

CLASSES:

5-8 YEAR OLD

1. No Bake Cookies** (3, any kind, with recipe)
2. Edible Creature* (see note below)

9-11 YEAR OLD

3. Muffins** (3 muffins, with recipe)
4. Edible Creature* (see note below)

12-14 YEAR OLD

5. Battered Coffee Cake** (no yeast, entire cake, with recipe)
6. Rolled Sugar Cookie** (no icing, 3, with recipe)

15-19 YEAR OLD (not a H.S. graduate)

7. Yeast Dinner Rolls** (3 rolls, with recipe)
8. Enhanced Cake** (using cake mix & other ingredients, with recipe, entire cake, no icing, any shape)
9. Brownies** (3 – 3x3 inch squares, with recipe)

OPEN CLASS (Any of above age groups may also show in any of the following classes.)

10. Snack (Using ingredients from each food group)
11. Decorated Cut-Up Cake** (cut to create shape, animal, etc. Evaluated on design and neatness.)
12. Quick Bread** (1 standard loaf of pumpkin, banana, etc. with recipe)
13. Bread Machine Bread** (any kind – 1 standard loaf, with recipe)
14. Yeast Cinnamon Rolls** (3 rolls, no icing, with recipe)

*Edible Creature is evaluated on uniqueness of design and variety of foods used, and is a “creature” of some type made up of chosen food and food items. Include a description of your “creature” on a 3x5 notecard.

** All foods must include a recipe written on a 3x5 notecard.

TABLE SETTING CONTEST – Must be Formal, Use a Theme

- TS1. Ages 5-8
- TS2. Ages 9-11
- TS3. Ages 12-14
- TS4. Ages 15-19 (not a H.S. graduate)



MAJOR COUNTY FOOD SHOW RULES

1. Contest is open to **ALL MAJOR COUNTY SCHOOL STUDENTS, AGE 5-19** in public, private, or home schools.
2. Exhibits must be labeled with contestant name, age, school, and grade classification.
3. **All exhibits must include recipes** (with the exception of the edible creature) and be the work of the exhibitor.
4. **NO MIXES** allowed (except class 8).
5. Only one (1) entry per class, per person.
6. ENTRIES SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE BAKING PAN AND DISPLAYED ON A PAPER
7. PLATE, PLASTIC BAG OR PIECE OF CARDBOARD – in other words, something disposable.
8. **Exhibits will be evaluated beginning at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 10th.** Exhibits will be placed in blue and red ribbon groups with outstanding exhibits named as the judge chooses. (Entries are accepted from 12:00-1:00 p.m.)
9. All exhibitors are encouraged to be present for the judging. Exhibits must be picked up following the judging of the entire show. Anything not picked up will be discarded.
10. All exhibitors' names will be entered in a drawing to be held during the judging. Exhibitors' names drawn may receive cash or prizes. Must be present to win!
11. **TABLE SETTING CONTEST GUIDELINES:** Participants will set up a formal place setting (on a card table – bring your own) including a table cover (cloth or placemat), appropriate flatware, dishes, glass or cup for beverage (whatever is needed) for the exhibit. Plan the menu and place a written menu on the table. (Put the exhibitor's name and age on the back of the menu.) Be creative! **Exhibitor must set up table in front of the judge and may be asked questions by the judge about their setting.**



The Major County Food Show is sponsored yearly by the
Major County Association of Oklahoma Home and Community Education (OHCE).

For information contact the OSU Extension Center at 580-227-3786.



**MAJOR COUNTY
EXTENSION**

Oklahoma State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Governments Cooperating.

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