



# 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](http://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](mailto:milford.jenkins@okstate.edu).

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### Website

[www.extension.okstate.edu/county/major](http://www.extension.okstate.edu/county/major)  
[www.extension.okstate.edu/county/major](http://www.extension.okstate.edu/county/major)

### Facebook

Major County 4-H  
Blaine County OSU Extension

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### District Archery, Air Rifle & Air Pistol Contests

We will be hosting these District Contests on Saturday, December 16 at the Major County Fairgrounds. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and contests begin at 9:30 a.m.

If you are interested in any of these shooting sports disciplines, coming and watching on this day would be a great way to see what they are all about.

There will be a concession stand available as well!

### District 4-H Share the Fun

If you participated in the Major County 4-H Share the Fun and plan to participate in the District Contest on Saturday, January 27 in Fairview please make sure and let us know so that we can get you registered.



### 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.

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. Workshops scheduled at this time are: STEM – Dry Ice, STEM – Drones & Robotics, Scholarships, Civic Engagement/Leadership/Service Learning, Photography, Etiquette & More. 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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 more involved in the shooting sports program 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 Major County Jr. Livestock Show

at the Major County  
Fairgrounds in Fairview

Friday, February 9  
Ag Mechanics projects in  
place by 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 10:

Livestock in place 8:00 a.m.

Sheep: Weigh-in 8:00 a.m.;  
Show at 9:00 a.m.

Goats: Weigh-in 8:30 a.m.;  
Show at 11:00 a.m.

Swine: Weigh-in 10:30  
a.m.; Show at 1:00 p.m.

Major County Food Show-  
entries taken 12-1:00 p.m.;  
judging begins at 1:00 pm.  
in the Exhibit Building

School weigh-in order:  
Fairview,  
Cimarron  
Ringwood  
Aline-Cleo



Sunday, February 11

Beef: in place at 10:00 a.m.;  
Weigh-in at 11:00 a.m.;  
Show at 1:00 p.m.

M. Nichols Awards Inter-  
views at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13:

(Bonus Auction)

Meal 5:30 p.m.

Awards 6:15pm

Auction begins 6:30 p.m.

**4-H Concession Stand at the Jr. Livestock Show:** we will be deciding on the work schedule and food items needed at the January 22 Countywide Meeting. Please check with your 4-H club leader after that date for details.

**County Food Show:** Be watching for full details on this event that is held during the Jr. Livestock Show. With the change in show schedules, we have moved the food show to Saturday, February 10 instead of a Monday evening.

# 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>

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