

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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4-H Members and Leaders Recognized

Over ninety 4-H members, leaders, parents, guests and extension staff celebrated “4-H- Unmask Your Opportunities”; recognizing outstanding accomplishments and 2013 achievements at the annual Achievement Party on Sunday, November 3, at the Expo Building on the Cass County fairgrounds. Donations were collected for the Blue Star Mothers of America project, Ted E. Bear Hollow support for grieving children and families and eyeglass collection for distribution overseas by former Cass County 4-Her, Marie Bolin.

This annual event included an afternoon hot dog roast/pork loin sandwich (smoked by Wayne Clymer) meal sponsored by the Cass County Bankers Association and awards sponsored by the Cass County Bankers Association, Meeske Hardware, Cass County 4-H Council and Nebraska 4-H Foundation.

Current 4-H Council Members recognized were: (Youth): Tara Bornemeier, Megan Hawks, Taylor Heim, Justin Hennessy, Lindsey Mills, Natalia Nolting, Liz Rice, Savannah Schafer, Dylan Sutton; (Adults) Lynn Dowding, Kim Griffin, Shane Hennessy, Diane Mills, Stephanie Schafer, Linda Sparks, Renee’ Hart Thakur, Jessica Vallery, Doug Wehrbein. Outgoing 4-H Council Members recognized for service were all youth and adult members Shane Hennessy, Stephanie Schafer, Doug Wehrbein.

Adult 4-H Council members elected for a three year term were Dennis Heim, Stephanie Schafer, Doug Wehrbein. Youth 4-H Council members elected for a one year term were Tara Bornemeier, Brenna Backemeyer, Megan Hawks, Taylor Heim, Lindsey Mills, Natalia Nolting, Ellen Rice, Savannah Schafer, Sam Sparks.

Receiving special recognition for years of service as leaders in the 4-H program were: Maxine Knabe (50 years); Chris Abbott, Fred Ulrich (25 years); Dan Roeber (20 years); Kim Griffin (15 years); Kim Cawley (10 years). Two year ribbons were presented to Amy Bockman, Kelly Brown, Matt Hammer, Carrie Nunez, Tracy Tyler.

Karen Bogatz, co-leader for Tomorrow’s Producers 4-H Club, was awarded the Outstanding 4-H Leader Award.

Leader appreciation gifts were provided by the Cass County 4-H Council to all organizational and project leaders.

4-H members receiving Gold Membership pins (over twelve years): Kristin Embury, Tanner Justesen, Emily Rohrbough, Emilee Smith, Georgia Stawniak, Abigail Wehrbein, Samantha Thomassen. Silver Membership pins (twelve years): Tanner Bornemeier, Tara Bornemeier, Grace Brown, Michaela Horn, Devanne Martin, Charlotte Miller, Lindsey Mills, Serena Rohrbough, Savannah Schafer, Mirissa Scholting, Jenna Schroeder, Wade Sexton, Dylan Sutton, Andrea Tesarek, Sydney Todd; Bronze Membership pins (ten years): Madison Ahrens, Quinton Arnett, Jordan Beck, Emily Bogle, Mackenzie Burch, Kortni Congdon, Rebecca Dillon, Kathleen Dillon, Megan Knott, Whitney Koehn, Gage Kraeger, Reed Kraeger, Layne Lambert, Josh Meyer, K.

Parriott, Jacqueline Parriott, MaKayla Parriott, Elizabeth Reiss, Elizabeth Rice, Ellen Rice, Stacey Safarik, Samuel Sparks, Whitney Todd, Chelsie Topliff, Paden Vogler.

Clover Kids and first year members were recognized with first year pins.

Clubs recognized for Community Service and receiving medals were: Cass County Creative Cats, Conestoga Clovers, Cornerstone Clovers, Country Crickets, Fairland Giants, Nehawka Swine, Plattsmouth Diversity, Tomorrow's Producers, Triple B, Weeping Water Whiz Kidz, 4-H Western Feeders.

Receiving Clubs of Excellence Award Medals: Gold: Cass County Creative Cats, Conestoga Clovers, Nehawka Swine, Plattsmouth Diversity, Triple B, 4-H Western Feeders, Weeping Water Whiz Kidz; Silver : Cornerstone Clovers, Country Crickets, Fairland Giants, Tomorrow's Producers. Honorable Mention: 4-H Believers, Bridle & Saddle, Cass County Lamb Kids, CC Explorers, Crazy Canine Critters, Dancerettes, E.M. 4-H Shooting Sports, Greenwood Riders, Hamma Lamma Slalmers, Hare Raisers, Kick 'N' Spurs, Kingdom Kids, Manley Merry Milkers, Southern Cass Sowers, Stove Creek Rustlers.

State 4-H Judging Contest team members recognized: Livestock: Taylor Heim, Savannah Schafer, Wade Sexton, Khobi Ceballos, Mackenzie Stohlmann, Jacob Vallery. Life Challenge: Mackenzie Burch, John Willey, Megan Hawks, Grace Brown, Austin Hawks, Jenna Meyer, Brenna Backemeyer, Whitney Koehn, Emily Zakaras, Faith C., K. Parriott. Top County Division Judges recognized; Livestock: Taylor Heim, Natalia Nolting, Savannah Schafer, Sarah Morton, Khobi Ceballos, Mackenzie Stohlmann, Titus Nolting, Quinton Arnett, Rylee Stohlmann, Gabriel Ackman, Jeremiah Lubben, Josiah Nolting. Life Challenge: Mackenzie Burch, Megan Hawks, Grace Brown, Charlotte Miller, Austin Hawks, Abraham Vidaurre, Valerie Miller, Kate Zakaras, Spencer Koehn. Recognized for receiving first place in the Clothing Challenge at the State Life Challenge contest were Brenna Backemeyer, Whitney Koehn, Emily Zakaras and John Willey. This team gave a short presentation highlighting their experience.

State Premier Science Awards were presented to Whitney Koehn, Austin Hawks, K. Parriott.

High point winners (General 4-H **with** Animals) in first place receiving Trophies: Savannah Schafer (Sr), Whitney Koehn (Int), Kate Zakaras (Jr). Receiving second place Silver Medals: Taylor Heim (Sr), Lily Korytowski (Int), Sophie Korytowski (Jr); third place Bronze Medals: Emily Zakaras (Sr), Spencer Koehn (Jr); fourth place Bronze Medals: Matt Griffin (Sr), Courtney Bockman (Jr). High Point Award Winners (General 4-H **or** Animals) in first place receiving Trophies: Megan Hawks (Sr), Faith C. (Int), Abraham Vidaurre (Jr). Receiving second place Silver Medals: Erwin Thakur (Sr), Mary DeGraff (Int), Annika Covington (Jr); third place Bronze Medals: Justin Hennessy (Sr), Austin Hawks (Int), Dakota Hill (Jr); fourth place Bronze Medals: Nicolette Larsen (Sr), Mikayla Larsen (Int), Julian Covington (Jr.). Overall High Point winner was Whitney Koehn.

Non-traditional Award winners recognized: *Camp of Choice Awards*: Jayda, Cedric, Cordale and Amyra Moxey; Receiving trophies: *Rookie of the Year Award*: Jenna Clark; *Most Memorable 4-H Experience Award*: Whitney Koehn; *Outstanding Citizenship Award*: Kyle Bogatz; *Kid of Character Award*: Kate Zakaras; *Outstanding Volunteer Award*: Grace Kolesik; *Outstanding Jr. 4-H Member Award*: Spencer Koehn; *Outstanding Intermediate 4-H Member Award*: Lily Korytowski; *Outstanding Senior*

4-H Member Award: Megan Hawks. Youth applying for non-traditional awards also won choice of prizes.

Career Portfolio award winner was Whitney Koehn, receiving a county medal in the area of Consumer and Family Science. Her award book advances to state level judging.

Diamond Clover Award Winners receiving *First Level Amethyst pins* were: Mackenzi Cox and Sela Rikli; *Second Level Aquamarine pins*: Kaley Clark, Lydia Nunez and Zane Rikli; *Third Level Ruby pins*: Abraham Vidaurre and Spencer Koehn; *Fourth Level Sapphire pins*: Mary DeGraff, Faith C. and Kate Zakaras; *Fifth Level Emerald pins*: Austin Hawks.

Clover Kid drawing winners were Lane Mills and Charlie Korytowski.

Winners of the camp award drawing funded by the 4-H Council were Mikayla Larsen and Jacob Vallery.

Morgan Mills was the lucky winner of the candy jar door prize.