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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Since I haven't gotten to say that to everyone "Happy New Year!" I hope 2011 has been good to you all so far. We're gearing up for another busy year of 4-H. As a reminder, these newsletters that I take the time to write each month contain very valuable information for all the Horse & Pony Club members. Please take 5 minutes each month to read over them for updates, events and results.

E-Newsletter

If you are receiving this via e-mail, THANK-YOU for making my life a little easier! If you are receiving this via regular mail, please consider giving me your e-mail address. It is not only a quicker way to keep up on the news but it saves the club money on postage. You can e-mail me at howardcountyhorse@hotmail.com with your name and e-mail address if you would like to start receiving them electronically.

February 4-H Meeting

Our February 4-H meeting will be the 10th at 6:30 pm at Vicory Baptist Church. As always, if school is canceled, please call before you come to the meeting, chances are we will not have it if schools are closed. We will talk about horse bowl, hippology and judging team events and results, pass around a sign up sheet for the tack swap/silent auction and answer questions about 4-H enrollment. If you know anyone who is interested in joining our club, please invite them to come and see what we're all about!

4-H Enrollment is in Full Swing!

If you have not already enrolled in 4-H PLEASE DO SO ASAP! It helps the office out tremendously if you can sign up early. You have until April to drop or add projects so enroll now in what you KNOW you want to do and feel free to change it later. New this year is online enrollment. You can visit www.four-h.purdue.edu/enroll to sign up. REMEMBER, you are not completely signed up until the office has received your \$5 enrollment fee and signature page. Please visit the Howard County Extension website or call 765-456-2313 for more information. The link to their website can be found on OUR website (www.howardcountyhorse.com).

Tack Swap & Silent Auction

One of our fundraisers is the Annual Tack Swap & Silent Auction. It is coming up on March 12th from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Greentown Fairgrounds Block Building. You can earn Incentive points by asking businesses to donate items or coupons to be auctioned off OR signing up to bring items for the concession stand. We will have sign up sheets at the February meeting. Examples of silent auction items we have had in the past include car washes, hair cuts, bags of horse feed, brushes, halters, etc. The items do NOT have to be "horsey." Feel free to print flyers off our website and post them anyplace you can think of! Feed and tack stores are great places to advertise.

Incentive Points

I know its been a while so I will take this opportunity to remind you what Incentive points are and how they work. Each time you attend a club event, donate an item to for the concession stand or otherwise donate your time or money to the club, you can earn incentive points. Those points accumulate throughout the year (ex: 2011 points started November 2010 and go through October 2011) and can earn you prizes at the end of the year. The more points you earn, the more money you get to spend on yourself! The only thing you have to remember to do is fill them out and turn them in!! Copies of the form can be found on our website.

Website & Facebook

After a few months of the website being down, it is now back up and running! Updates are being posted regularly so please bookmark it to your favorites and check it frequently. If you have never visited our website, take a few minutes to scan it. There is valuable information posted there, sometimes it is more current than the newsletter as well. If you have a Facebook account, you can also “like” us there to get club updates. Our website is www.howardcountyhorse.com. You can search for “Howard County Horse and Pony Club” to “like” us on Facebook.

4-H Club Teams

Our Horse Bowl, Hippology and Judging teams are in full swing. It is NOT too late to join! Montana and Cindy are doing a great job preparing all our competitors for their upcoming competitions. See the website for meeting times and dates, or call Montana or Cindy directly!

Hoosier Horse Fair

The Hoosier Horse Fair is April 1st, 2nd and 3rd this year. The only 4-H event that will take place there is the Groom & Clean, all other events (versatility, Horse of the Year, etc.) will take place during the State Fair. You can purchase tickets online, at Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance offices, select Marsh or Rural King stores.