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And so it begins....4-H that is!

Its March 1...you all know what that means! I hope you do anyway, you SHOULD have enrolled in 4-H by today. If you didn't, you still can, but only if you have never signed up late before. There are some rules that must be abided by. Please call the extension office if you missed the enrollement deadline and they will tell you what your options are. Remember, you can add or drop projects until April 1. Please read on for more 4-H "horsey" information.

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. I thank those that gave me e-mail addresses at the last meeting or on their enrollment forms, it's much appreciated!

March 4-H Meeting

Our March 4-H meeting will be the 10th at 6:30 pm at Vicory Baptist Church. The tack swap will be our main topic of conversation since it is March 12th. There will be a sign up sheet passed around for items needed. Hopefully it will be almost full by then!! I will also go over sponsorships so everyone can get a head start on them. You should have NO problems turning them in by the May 26th deadline.

Horse Forms

Now that you are enrolled in 4-H the next step is to get your horse forms filled out. They will be sent out at the beginning of April and are due **MAY 15TH**. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this rule. If you do not turn in a horse form, you will NOT be allowed to show at the fair. You must attach pictures to your horse forms as well. If you need help taking pictures, call Emily or Montana and we will help you out. Emily has some pictures from last year that will be able to be picked up at the March meeting.

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. Cindy is looking for a few more donations for the concession stand. We will have sign up sheets at the March 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." If you already have items donated **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** tell Emily OR Montana what they are so we make sure to have enough tables set up for display.

Team Updates

Practice continues through March on Tuesday and Thursday nights at Victory Baptist Church from 6 to 7 pm. Barn visits are being scheduled for March and April. For those of you on the teams: Contest fees are due to Montana by March 8th. If you plan to compete on a horse bowl or hippology team or as an individual you need to get your \$20 in ASAP. If you are only doing hippology the fee is only \$10.

Website & Facebook

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.

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.

Mandatory Safety Meeting

We will have a mandatory safety meeting again this year. Last year we had excellent attendance so please keep it up and impress me again! Our May meeting (May 12th @ 6:30 pm, Victory Baptist Church) will count and if you can't make it to that one you can attend out at the fairgrounds on May 25th or 26th. Each 4-Her must attend one of these meetings or they will not complete the Horse & Pony 4-H project for 2011.

2011 Show Dates

Fair Show Day 1	July 9	Open Youth Show	June 18
Fair Show Day 2	July 16	Open Pleasure Show	August 27

Sponsorships

Emily or Montana will start taking sponsorship money now. You can earn extra incentive points if you turn them in by May 26th. Each 4-Her is asked to turn in 3 \$10 sponsorships and each mini 4-Her is asked to turn in 1. These help pay for your plaques that you get at the end of the year. We will explain more at the March meeting for those that are new to the club.