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May Flowers...

Hello! I'm writing this with rain outside in hopes that the April showers really are going to be bringing those May flowers. Please read on for information about upcoming events and VERY IMPORTANT dates.

May 4-H Meeting

Our May meeting will be the 12th at 6:30 pm at Victory Baptist Church. Remember this is one of the mandatory meetings that you can attend. We will hand out Horse & Pony books, you can turn in horse forms, and work on our club banner.

Horse Forms

Horse forms are due MAY 13TH. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS EARLIER BECAUSE THE 15TH IS A

SUNDAY!! 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 county fair or state fair. You must also turn in: **pictures** of each horse on the form, **lease form** (if you are leasing a horse) and an **animal location form**. The lease form and animal location form are both able to be printed from our website. If you need help taking pictures, or don't have all the forms you need, 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 April meeting. Make sure they are signed by the 4-Her AND parent.

Judging Team Updates

The judging team competed at the Area contest and did very well! The junior team of Anna Guyer, Sarah Loisch, Bronwyn Getts, Whitney Riley & Michael Riley placed 1st. Anna Guyer placed 1st as a junior individual with Sarah Loisch placing 2nd. The senior team of Clara Loisch, Gabby Loisch, Isaac Guyer & Taylor Avery also earn a 1st. Ashley Davis was the 1st place senior individual. Isaac Guyer was the 3rd place senior individual. They will compete at the state contest on May 7th in Hendricks county.

Mini 4-H Clinic

Our Mini 4-H Clinic will be June 30th at 6:30 pm. This is a chance for the mini 4-Her's wanting to show at the fair to meet their 4-Her and horse they will be showing. Please make sure they wear pants and closed toe shoes and bring a helmet. If you don't have a helmet, we will have some to share. Each Mini will have a chance to practice the showmanship pattern and ride. It's very important that we have as many 4-Hers and horses there as possible.

Groom & Clean

Grace Guyer has agreed to organize our Groom & Clean contest. It will be held June 14th at 6:30 pm at the fairgrounds, followed by an arena night. There will be 3 divisions which are: Junior (3rd – 7th grade) and Senior (8th – 12th grade) and a mixed category. There will be 3 people per team. The purpose is to clean your horse as good as you can in 15 minutes using only the specified supplies. There will also be a "dirt squad" that we need volunteers for. If you are interested in participating, please contact Grace so we know how many to expect. Grace will explain the rules and supplies at our May meeting.

Arena Nights & Clinics

Below is a list of dates that we will have arena nights at the fairgrounds. I know we aren't having as many as we have in past year, but schedules, attendance and costs have forced us to limit our time at the arena. Brian Craig has agreed to do a clinic for us and the date will be confirmed soon, it will probably be either June 16th or 23rd. The cost will be \$10 per participant. Anyone can come and watch for free.

May 25 & 26 – Mandatory Meeting/Arena Night 6:30-8:30 pm June 30 – Arena Night (following Mini Clinic)
June 14 – Arena Night (following Groom & Clean) July 6 – Arena Night 6:30-8:30 pm

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 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

These are the shows that we are hosting at our arena. If you would like to look for more in the area, visit www.midwestshowbills.com and browse the events in Indiana and surrounding states.

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

Sponsorships

We are 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. Please make sure to tell your sponsors that their name will appear in the Fair Edition of the Kokomo Tribune as long as they are turned in on time. These help pay for your plaques that you get at the end of the year.

Building Update

We received a bid for our building addition. The amount is \$5,309. The exhibit association accepted our request for \$2,500. We will use the money in our savings account to cover the difference. If weather and schedules comply, we should be able to use the addition by our fair show.

State Fair Entry Forms

Entries are due by July 1. The 4-H newsletter said they are due June 1st but that is a typing error. You can still sign up after that but the price increases dramatically. I have posted the 2011 entry blank on our website along with the show schedule. If you have questions about what classes to sign up for, or how to fill it out and send it in, please ask, we are here to help!

Extension Office Updates

Howard County 4-H now has a blog to follow. You can read it by visiting <http://howardcounty4-h.blogspot.com> to learn about upcoming events.