

Having Fun, Raising Funds, Working Together: What 4-H Is All About

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Lancaster Farming Staff
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — 4-H membership is more than simply working on project books and competing at fairs. To Saddle Cinches 4-H'ers, it means raising money for charities . . . and of course having fun.

At this year's Elizabethtown Fair in late August, members of the Lancaster County-based horse club raised more than \$880 to benefit various charities throughout the state.

How did they do it? They opened up their stables, brought out their best ponies, and

trotted them out to the fair. While at Elizabethtown, they used the beef show ring to stage pony rides for young and old (well, mostly young) at a cost of \$1 a ride.

According to Lori Holton, Saddle Cinches 4-H club leader, 884 people rode the ponies, "a couple of adults but mostly kids, from babies to teens," she said. The money was used to benefit various charities, including the S. June Smith Center, the Four Diamond Fund, and the 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program.

At a recent interview at the five-acre Kendy Allen farm in Manheim, Holton said that the ponies used were all project ponies, including Shetlands, Welsh, small horses, and Chincoteagues. (Allen's farm is home to 17 horses, many 4-H project animals.) They sported a variety of names, includ-

ing Red Mist, Black Mist, Partly Cloudy, and others.

The Saddle Cinches numbers 71 members this year, according to Pat Nichols, a leader who also helped out with the riding. Each night, about 15 4-H'ers were on hand to lead the horses to raise the money at the fair.

"One 4-H member would lead and one would spot," said Nichols. "They would take turns."

For some 4-H'ers, it was a challenge to get the animals adjusted to the show ring, between the tractor pulls and the rides, in the area used to show beef. Some of the ponies had to be led around the ring about 40 times, in all, before they finally settled down, said Nichols.

The rides were conducted from 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m. each night. The group plans to do the same again next year.

A benefit of the 4-H riding at Elizabethtown includes learning to work with a group toward a common goal. This helps further the directives of 4-H: to teach members to work together and to learn the benefits of cooperation, how to set goals, how to learn more about working with the public, and the rewards of working with horses.

This was the group's second year at the fairgrounds.

"It was an easy way to raise funds," said Nichols. "We had done trash pickup at the fair before, but the kids enjoyed this a lot more."

And not only do the 4-H'ers learn to work as a group, but the time spent helps them earn the coveted Saddle Cinches 4-H supersilk jacket, for which many are proud to wear at the shows.



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ANSWER — Thanks to Mildred K. Vorndran of Webster, New York, for this tried-and-true recipe for cucumber relish. She also mixes a small amount of it with mayonnaise to make tartar sauce.

Cucumber Relish

- 12 unpeeled cucumbers (not too large)
- 3 red peppers
- 3 green peppers
- 12 large onions

Coarsely chop ingredients. Sprinkle with ½ cup salt. Let stand overnight. Drain and discard juice. Add

- 1½ quarts vinegar
- 5 cups sugar
- ½ ounce (1 tablespoon) celery seed
- ½ ounce (1 tablespoon) mustard seed

Let come to a boil. Then make the following paste: heaping ½ cup flour, 3 teaspoons dry mustard, 1 teaspoon turmeric, ½ cup vinegar.

Add hot mixture to paste. Cook together until well-blended. Can into jars. Yields 10 pints. Mildred puts the jars in a hot water bath and cooks for 10-12 minutes to seal.

ANSWER — This is the season for soybeans. Ida Keeny, New Freedom, sent these instructions for shelling edible soybeans. She writes that this method goes fast and is a pleasant job. For those who have trouble finding seeds, ask a garden supply store to order them for you.

To shell soybeans, wait until most of the beans are filled out but not yellow. Pull by the stalks, take them to a shady place, sit down and pull off the pods.

Blanch in a small amount of water, in the pressure cooker, just bring it up to 15 pounds pressure, take off and run cold water on them until pressure is down. Or, you can boil them in a kettle for 5 minutes. Drain the beans and put into a shallow cake pans. As soon as cool enough to handle, squeeze out the beans into a bowl of ice water. Drain and they are ready to freeze.



At this year's Elizabethtown Fair in late August, members of the Lancaster County-based Saddle Cinches 4-H Horse Club raised more than \$880 to benefit various charities throughout the state. From left, Lyndsy Holton, Michael Green riding Comet, Kerra Allen, Pat Nichols, Sarah Gehman riding Dapples, Ken Allen, Kelly Nichols, Danielle Gehman riding Red Mist, Katye Allen at halter, Rebecca Gehman petting the pony, and Lori Holton. Photo by Andy Andrews

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