



4-H HAPPENINGS

Green Grove Community 4-H Club

"Hook, line and sinker"... "flash in the pan"... "the one that got away"... "when the smoke clears." Do all these phrases really belong in the same paragraph?

They do when you're talking about the recent Fishing Fun Day hosted by the Green Grove Community 4-H Club.

The June 26 event was combined with a muzzle loading rifle project meeting at the Welch Family farm near Starucca. The farm proved to be the perfect location for club members and their families to experience just what 4-H is all about.

Participants were afforded opportunities to share expertise, learn by doing, gain and practice new skills, spend precious family time, and strive in healthy competition — all in an environment rich in respect for wildlife, property, safety, and others.

The environment at the muzzle-loading range (created by a natural ridge line) was one of careful control, strict adherence to rules, and close supervision by Project Leader John Sherman (aided by several other adult coaches.) Participants also learned the cause and proper response to a real "flash in the pan." When the smoke had cleared and targets were examined, shooters were elated to find that discipline and practice were paying off: skills were improving.

At those well-stocked ponds, there was also much exuberance, especially from David Sarber, 8-year-old winner of the prize for most fish caught (a whopping 88)! The largest catch of the Fishing Fun Day was a 19½-inch Walleye made by Mark Musser. Mark, age 17, also claimed the prize for most species caught — his bounty included Bluegill, Perch, Walleye, and Bass.

Mark was most thrilled by the 19½-inch Walleye, caught literally seconds before time was officially called to end the contest. With that "last second" snatch, Alan Bibalo's 19-inch Walleye slid to second place for the largest. Undaunted, Alan (age 13) was happy to claim the prize for the largest Bluegill (eight-inches). Adam Sickler, age 10, and Mark Musser tied for catching the largest perch (nine-½-inches),

while Ruben Rodriguez, 10, took the prize for the largest Bass at 16-inches. Fernanda Rodriguez, age 13, landed the largest bullhead of the day (13-inch) before heading off to the muzzle loading range to provide some tough competition for the male shooters.

Following a very full morning of working hard at having fun, the Fun Day participants enjoyed a brief rest and picnic lunch. Even Fishing Project leader Larry Winkler was forgiven the oversight of forgetting his fishing pole as he cleaned and packaged the members' huge catch.

Irish Hill Shamrocks 4-H Club

The third meeting of the Irish Hill Shamrocks was called to order by vice president, Chantal Birchard. The pledge to the flag was led by Liz Holbert. The 4-H pledge was led by Melissa Zamorski.

Members paid dues and talked about who would give money and how we would raise it. Achievement Days is Aug. 1-3 at Penn State.

Dimock Community 4-H Club

The Dimock Community 4-H Club has been involved in some great community service projects. In March, the club had planted flower seeds. Now that they are grown, members planted them around the Dimock Community Church building and post office.

At their latest meeting, members reported on litter pickups. One boy told of finding half a pencil, and farther on, the other half.

Three interesting project demonstrations were given. One was about how to plant a garden, another boy showed members the clown he had made, and yet another told about learning your dog's behavior.

The kids sang happy birthday to two members.

Born To Show 4-H Club

At the Born To Show 4-H Club's, meetings pledges were said and the treasure's report read. Ben Hoover and Justin Garner talked about the dairy judging contest in New York on June 29.

Aug. 1-3 is State Achievement Days at Penn State. There will be a cleanup at the Harford Fairgrounds. Dairy books must be completed at roundup.

Acre Lake 4-H Club

On June 15, the Acre Lake 4-H Club went to Shadowbrook in Tunkhannock. Some members went bowling and played pool. The next meeting will be at Lackawanna State Park.

Vermont Tour Enjoyed By Area 4-H Clubs

More than 90 4-H'ers and their families enjoyed two beautiful, fun-packed days in Vermont July 11-12. The trip organized by Penn State Cooperative Extension office manager Evie Goff began with a tour of Howe Caves, in Cobelskill, N.Y.

Members and families toured the caves and learned how they were formed and even got to take a boat ride 150-feet below the ground in 42-degree water. Some kids went Gem Stone mining and came up with such treasures as rubies, garnets, crystal, and emeralds.

From there it was onto Burlington, Vt. for a two-hour sunset cruise on Lake Champlain upon a 500-passenger luxury cruise ship. 4-H members were thrilled when the captain let each of them navigate the boat. After a full day, it was back to the hotel for dinner and swimming.

The next morning kids and families made a delectable stop at the world famous Ben and Jerry's manufacturing plant in Waterbury, Vt. After a 10-minute film explaining Ben and Jerry's remarkable history, the tour continued to the production plant. Members and families got to see the making of the ice cream from beginning to end.

Everyone was amazed to hear that in one day, this plant makes 180,000 pints of ice cream. From there it was onto the tasting room. Samples of "Cherry Garcia" and "Half Baked" were enjoyed by all.

After boarding the buses, it was onto the Green Mountain Flyer scenic train ride. Members relaxed as the train snaked through 26 miles of beautiful Vermont scenery. The restored coaches traveled through Brockways Mills Gorge and over two covered bridges.

With everyone getting a full dose of Vermont culture, it was back home to Pennsylvania.

Cumberland Countywide 4-H Dairy Club

The Cumberland Countywide 4-H Dairy Club meeting was July 10 at the Kulicks, Carlisle.

President Thomas Harwood called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Under old business, Donald Harwood reported on how the judging team did on Saturday at the regional contest. Melissa Detman placed 10th in the junior division for the senior division, Scott Walton placed third, Amy Kaucher placed eighth, Sarah Day placed fourth, and Aaron Corman placed ninth.

Also under old business, Amy Kaucher reported how the junior division team and the senior team did at the regional dairy bowl contest. The junior team placed fifth and the senior team placed first. The junior team was made up of Melissa Detman, Sarah Wickard, and Ian Stamy. The senior team was made up of Brian Nailor, Amy Kaucher, Michael Woods, and Zach Travis.

Harwood also asked everyone that went to speak-out night to stand and tell how they did. Amy Kulick did a speech on "Future Concerns of Dairy Farming" and she received a blue, Mark Fulton and Aaron Corman did a speech on "Farm Safety" and they received a blue, Sonya Ricker did a radio spot and a demonstration on "Dairy Farming vs. Beef Farming" and she received a blue, Amy Kaucher did a radio spot and a demonstration on "Johnne's Disease" and she received blue for both, Joe Arnold did a radio spot and he received a blue and Morgan Creek did a demonstration on "What is Milk Anyway?" and he received a blue. Melissa Detman did a radio spot and a demonstration on "Safety Handling Animals" and she received blue for both.

Under new business, Thomas made sure everyone had a new calendar for July and August. Thomas also reminded everyone of State Days and to check with their coaches to be sure they were signed up. John Ocker reminded everyone about the concession stand at the Holstein Show on Aug. 12.

After new business was done, Timothy Blasco gave a demonstration on schizophrenia, Tori Fuller gave a demonstration on an interview conducted with a veterinarian, and Brian Nailor gave a demonstration on the interview he did with a farmer. The program was identifying grain and forage.

The 4-H Dairy Roundup is Aug. 4-5 at Shippensburg Fairgrounds. The next meeting is Sept. 11.

Berks 4-H Beef

Members of the Berks County

4-H Beef Club conducted their annual summer field day recently at Brubaker Angus at Forge Hollow Farm. The farm is owned and operated by Ken and Ginger Brubaker along with their 9-year-old son, Clay.

The Brubaker's operation consists of a 40-head purebred Angus cow-calf herd.

The Brubakers hope to produce a productive herd through line-breeding and strict culling. They want their cows to be angular with sound udders, with fleshing ability, strong maternal instinct, sound feet and legs, and their females must breed back regularly every year.

Their herd bulls also have a simple yet vital expectation that they must live up to. They are expected to produce females that equal and exceed their mothers. Right now, Brubaker Angus is introducing a new herd sire OCC Galileo 754G.

"He combines a sound phenotype, moderate frame size, fleshing ability, and maternal function to produce the next generation of efficient females," said Brubaker. Two other herd sires that the Brubakers are using are Irvington Vindicator 1066 and WRA Yogi F3.

The 30 4-H Beef Club members and their families toured the Brubaker family's intensive grazing program. In this program, the Brubakers keep their herd in a small paddock of a large pasture and rotate the herd from paddock to paddock as the cattle eat the grass, ideally every two to three days. The pastures are a blend of orchard grass, alfalfa, clover, and fescue. There is no creep feed offered to their calves. They are strictly raised off their mother's milk and grass until they are weaned around 205 days of age, according to Brubaker.

The heifers weaned in the fall that will be used as replacement heifers are fed a low energy ration for three months and then are given high quality hay to proceed with their development until they are again turned out on pasture in the spring. The cows are also fed hay in the winter, reinforcing the importance of being able to convert efficiently the hay forage into energy.

Following the pasture walk, there was a judging clinic where members, along with Ken Brubaker, a Berks County livestock judging coach, discussed a class of steers. After the judging clinic, there was a showmanship clinic. Club members learned the proper ways to present their steers and heifers, along with themselves, in the show



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