



Marion County AgriLife Extension Office
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4-H Newsletter

December 2008



Merry Christmas to All!

The holidays are upon us. Christmas is just days away. We know all of you students are ready for the vacation days. After all the excitement of the football season, you're probably ready for some down time. Basketball and volleyball and anticipation of the Christmas Season are raising the excitement level again. Remember to be thankful for all your blessings and don't forget the reason for the season. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday season.

4-H has lots of exciting things coming up, too. There are several events you need to be preparing for, such as Public Speaking, Photography contest, Consumer Decision Making, Food Show, and more. Read this newsletter and mark your calendar with these important dates. The district schedule is included for your information and use.

Call if you need us. We're here for you.

Brock Fry
 CEA-AG/NR/4H



Paulette Cooper
 EA-CEP, 4-H/CD



PUBLIC SPEAKING

The last class in the series on Public Speaking was held December 2nd. If you missed this series, you missed a great opportunity to acquire speaking skills, but don't let that deter you. The agents will work with you anytime you need them to help you acquire these skills. Being able to speak before an audience is a great asset in life, one to be pursued. Public Speaking is one of the categories in 4-H Round-Up. If you are interested in entering that contest at Round-Up in April, let the agents know and we'll begin working on it with you.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The County Photography Contest was held on Tuesday, December 9. There were nearly 30 entries. Twelve of these will advance to the District Photography Contest in Nacogdoches in April at 4-H Round-Up. Photos for the District Contest MUST be in the District Office by December 17, 2008. The entries for the district show must be mounted on a stiff board such as chipboard for show. Entry fee is \$5.00 per person plus 50¢ per photo entered.



CONSUMER DECISION MAKING

County Consumer Decision Making Contest will be held December 18, 2008. The contest teaches you to make wise consumer decisions based on characteristics and relative cost of the products you wish to purchase. It's a fun project as well as informative and educational. If you would like to enter this contest, let us know. Entry deadline is January 12, 2009 for District contest to be held on January 20, 2009 in Overton.



FOOD SHOW

A foods workshop will be held December 16, 2008 in preparation for the County Food Show. Registration starts at 5:45 p.m. The County Show will be held January 12, 2009. Decide what dish you wish to prepare, get your recipe out, and practice making it several times. Gather your materials for your food display, things that will most enhance the dish you've prepared. After the workshop, study the nutrition information and preparation techniques for your dish so that you will be able to answer the judges' questions at the food show.

Winners of the County Show will advance to the District Food Show. The District Show will be held February 7 in Nacogdoches. The deadline for entries is January 16. The Foods/Nutrition Quiz Bowl will be held in conjunction with the District Food Show. If you wish to form a team and enter the Quiz Bowl, let us know immediately so we can get you the necessary information and study materials.



ENGAGING YOUTH, SERVING COMMUNITY

Agents Paulette Cooper and Brock Fry, 4-H'ers Byron Webb, LeAnna Mack and Roshunda Wilson, and adult volunteers Dorothy Smith, Lisa Harper and John Cooper are shown working in the new flower bed in front of the Kelly Park sign on Hwy 49 West. This beautification project is part of the Youth and Adult Partnership Program.



Agent Fry and Byron Webb set nandina shrubs in the flower bed beneath the Kelly Park sign. The volunteer group spent approximately 6 hours Saturday working on the project. Many additional hours were spent on planning and preparation. Marion County Commissioners assisted with the preparations, along with other volunteers.

Many willing hands make the work go faster. Both 4-H'ers and adult volunteers are assisting Agent Cooper by giving of their time and talents to enhance one of our community parks. Picnic tables will be refurbished or replaced, as well as cooking grills and some playground equipment.



John Cooper, 4-H club manager and leader, cleans up around the historical marker located in Kelly Park, preparing the soil for plants to be put in. A walking trail is also planned for the park. The next workday is Saturday, December 13. All hands gratefully accepted to help with this project. This is a community service project and good for points toward your community service.

Not only is the park getting a face lift, the area in front of the Kellyville Community Center is also getting a makeover. Roshunda Wilson and Lisa Harper work on mixing a plant growing medium into the soil in preparation for planting shrubs and flowers in the area around the flagpole in front of the building. You can help with this project. Just call (903)665-2421 to volunteer.



CONGRATULATIONS TO BYRON & EVA!!

Byron Webb and Eva Love-Hall just returned from National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia the week after Thanksgiving. If you see Eva or Byron, ask them about their experience. Next newsletter will have pictures of their time there.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR CHRISTMAS?

What are you planning for Christmas? Are you going to Grandma's house or having family and friends to your house? Are you visiting the nursing homes to sing carols and bring cheer to someone who may be lonely? Are you providing Christmas dinner for a needy family? Let us know what your Christmas traditions are. Send us your pictures or articles. Our email addresses are bhampton@ag.tamu.edu; bafry@ag.tamu.edu; and pcooper@ag.tamu.edu.

4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For a calendar of 4-H events in the County, go to the Marion County Extension Office website at marion-tx.tamu.edu, and for District events, check out the district calendar included in this letter.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!