

The 4-H Messenger

Providing Athens-Clarke County Middle School students with the Latest 4-H News!

On the web: <http://www.tinyurl.com/clarke4h>

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Cloverleaf DPA



March 25 was Cloverleaf District Project Achievement at S. Jackson Elementary School. Twenty-nine students represented Clarke County in a variety of project categories and along with 300 other students from nine area counties. Ask us how you can be involved next year.

Clarke County earned the Highest Percentage of 1st place winners!

4-H Happenings

- Dairy month posters due.....May 12
Theme: "Around the Dairy in Seven Days"
- Cloverleaf Camp Orientation.....May 17
- Cloverleaf Camp at Rock Eagle.....June 19-23
Current 6th grade students
- State 4-H Council at Rock Eagle..... June 23-25
Available only to current 8th grade students and high school students
- Junior Camp at Fortson 4-H Center.....July 10-14

- Forestry workshopsto be determined
- Wildlife Judging practices.....to be determined

4-H Awards Program

Forty students who participated in district and/or state competitions were honored at the annual 4-H award program, Wednesday, April 26 at the Athens-Clarke County Extension 4-H Facility. Students pictured below participated in project achievement, judging teams and a variety of other competitions.



Project Achievement Portfolios

To qualify to participate in project achievement competition in seventh grade and above, students must submit a portfolio. A portfolio is a document similar to a resume that lists the activities in which a student participates.

Portfolios are not difficult nor excessively time consuming to compile but it does take some advance planning. Select the Project Achievement tab on the 4-H web page (www.tinyurl.com/clarke4h) for resources to help you through the process. There you will find project categories, portfolio guidelines, a sample portfolio, and other helpful resources. In creating a portfolio, a student will list things in which they have participated in the specific format categories.

Summer is the ideal time to consider the category in which you intend to compete for project achievement. Once you have selected your project category, consider how your activities apply to the portfolio headings. If you discover that your portfolio is a little sparse, summer gives you the opportunity to do more things. Summer is also when 4-H staff has available time to help improve your portfolio by offering suggestions and activities to improve your portfolio. Do not wait until December to ask for help.

Forestry and Wildlife Judging

Summer is the ideal time to prepare for these two fall judging teams.

The Forestry Judging competition takes place in early September at the Wahsega 4-H center. At the forestry competition students will identify trees by looking at leaf samples, identify insects and diseases by observing samples or photographs, estimate timber harvest volume from five sample trees and complete an orienteering course.

In Wildlife Judging, students will study given species of animals native to the southeast including their habitat requirements as well as evaluation of aerial photographs for wildlife habitat, and wildlife management concepts and practices. Students will work together as a team to evaluate a specific property and write a wildlife management plan. This competition takes places at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in May. Athens-Clarke County's Team won the State Contest in 2020 and earned trip to the National competition!



Forestry will require a minimum of three two-hour practices sessions and individual study to be prepared for competition. Wildlife judging will require a minimum of two three-hour workshops plus individual study. If you are interested in participating in either of the judging teams, contact Ms. Conway by email at ebarber@uga.edu to arrange a schedule when you can come to the 4-H office.



4-H Contests

Can you grow a giant pumpkin? Did you know that pumpkins are 90% water? Each year the **Georgia 4-H Pumpkin Growing Contest** seeks to find the student who has grown the largest pumpkin in the state. Need a project to keep you busy this summer? This might be it because pumpkins are fun but not easy to grow. You must be vigilant in their care making sure that weeds are removed and that your plant has plenty of water and sunshine. An extension staff member must certify the weight of your pumpkin and photograph you and the giant fruit by October 19th to be eligible for prizes. You can find information including tips for growing a giant pumpkin on the Georgia 4-H website at www.georgia4h.org/pumpkin.



Dairy Month Poster Contest entries are due at the 4-H office by May 12. Draw a 14 by 22 inch poster using the theme: "Around the Dairy in Seven Days." Complete rules can be found in the March 2023 4-H newsletter. Don't forget to include your contact information on the back of the poster.

Now that warmer weather has arrived you may be interested in the **Watermelon Growing Contest** if you are a gardener. The deadline for submitting weights and photographs is August 1st in this contest. Complete details for this contest are also available in online at www.georgia4h.org/watermelon



2024 Project Achievement—If you are interested in competing at Rock Eagle, summer is the ideal time to set up Project Work and Sharing & Helping for your Portfolio. Contact Ms. Conway by email at ebarber@uga.edu to set up a time to meet with her during the summer to prepare for next year's competition.



Athens-Clarke County 4-H

275 Cleveland Road
Bogart, GA 30622

Phone: (706) 613-3640 Fax: (706) 613-3643

Elizabeth Conway, 4-H Agent email: ebarber@uga.edu

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