



Pickens County 4H

Fall/Winter 2008 Update

\$11,000 in scholarships presented: In January, we had the extreme pleasure of presenting 8 Pickens County college freshmen with a combined total of \$11,000 worth of 4H scholarships. The students earned this money over a 5 year period, the 7th—12th grades, competing in many speaking and judging competitions. We are very fortunate to have donors like AEMC's operation round up, Jasper Banking Company, and many 4H alumni supporting our scholarship program.



5th grade in school classes: Every month, Clarcy Kirby and/or Rick Jasperse visits each 5th grade classroom in the county and presents an agriscience lesson within the GPS standards. So far, the students have learned about plant classification, water conservation (with a cool water model), microorganisms (by a hand washing game), and the importance of a properly maintained water system (with a game called poison pump).



Portfolios are done! We turned in 15 junior and senior portfolios to the State 4H office in January. These portfolios are filled with a year's worth of meticulous records on each 4H'er's chosen project. They account for 50% of their score at DPA, while the other 50% comes from their speech. Our 7th—12th graders will be going to Rock Eagle March 6-8 for their competition, are practicing diligently, and plan to win! Drop by our office to SEE these great portfolios!

Some selected upcoming events...

- Feb 18-21 GA Junior National Livestock Show
- Feb 24 Summer Camp Signup
- March 6-8 Junior/Senior DPA
- March 14 4H / MG plant sale
- April 18-19 Weekend in the Classic City
- April 21 District Poultry Judging — Dalton
- April 25 District SAFE qualifying — Union Co.



Cloverleaf DPA

12th grade Senior 4H'er Jennifer Ingram keeps 59 Pickens County 5th and 6th graders entertained at Rock Eagle in November. The kids were treated to a dance, pizza party, campfire & smores before the competition.

See story inside...



Also inside: Goat Team 3rd place Herdsman Award, Happy Halloween Hollow, Consumer Judging, 3rd place in state w/poptabs, nursing home visit, scholarships, in school meetings, portfolios & upcoming events



Cloverleaf DPA: On November 21 and 22, we took 59 5th and 6th graders and 6 teen leaders to Rock Eagle for a public speaking competition. Each kid came prepared to give a 5 minute speech supported by visual aids. There were 950 competitors from 20 counties competing, creating the biggest Cloverleaf DPA in Georgia 4H history. We had 6 kids place first, 5 place second, and 6 place third, and although all did not come home with a ribbon, we are proud of each and every one of them! These kids stepped out of their comfort zone and did an academic project outside of their schoolwork, and proudly represented Pickens County. Our county was also awarded a plaque for having the 3rd largest number of competitors at the event.



Goat Team: The season ended for the goat showing team at the Georgia National Fair in October. The kids ended their year by winning 3rd place in the state “Herdsmen Award” competition. There is a plaque hanging in our office commemorating the event. The team is looking forward to the next show year, which begins in May.

Happy Halloween Hollow: This was the 4th year we have sponsored this event, and each year we are amazed at the creativity of the pumpkins returned to the courthouse lawn! Each K-5 classroom in Pickens County is presented with a pumpkin from the 4H club, and the decorated pumpkins are returned to the courthouse lawn for a judging contest. 4H’ers also provided games and face painting for trick or treaters, and the entire community was treated to a wonderful display of 93 uniquely decorated pumpkins!



Consumer Judging: Also known as “Cotton Bowl,” this competition teaches youth how to become wise consumers. They learn to compare prices and choose products that fit given criteria. This year, the kids judged MP3 players, hoodies, cell phone plans and pre packaged lunches. 4 Pickens youth competed, and Katy Archer, 9th grade 4H’er from PHS, won 5th high individual!



Poptabs turned in at Junior Conference: Throughout the year, our 4H club collects poptabs to help the Ronald McDonald House. In 2008, all of our Pickens County 5th grade classrooms joined us and together our county collected a whopping 441 pounds of them! Our 7th and 8th grade 4H’ers took them to Junior Conference at Rock Eagle in November, where they were weighed along with all of the other counties poptabs. Pickens County came in third place in the state, beat out only by Elbert and Columbia counties. In all, Georgia 4H clubs collected 15,443 lbs of poptabs, equaling 23,967,536 (that’s about 24 million) individual tabs! WOW!!!

Nursing Home Visit: 4H is all about community service, and this Christmas season a group of 4H’ers made Christmas cards and took them to the Mountain Health Care nursing home. After passing out the cards and visiting with the residents, the 4H’ers sang Christmas carols to them.



After School Project Clubs: So far this year, 8 Senior 4H’ers have presented a total of 40 lessons to kids in the afterschool program at Jasper Elementary!