

# County 4-H club makes bierocks for at least 20 years

By Karen Krien

The year is not known for sure but Kaye O'Brien, St. Francis, reported that it had been at least 20 years since she, Ruth Milliken and Mary Lou Douthit first began making bierocks to sell at St. Francis' Heritage Days as a fund raiser for Pleasant Hill 4-H Club. The club has been using the bierocks sales as a fund raiser ever since with the exception of a few years.

The first Pleasant Hill bierocks were made in the home of Ruth Milliken. The adults made the bierocks and the 4-H members wrapped them. That year, they made 259 bierocks. They went on sale at 11 a.m. the morning of the Heritage Day celebration and they were sold out by 11:30.

The next year, 530 bierocks were made and, again, they were sold in 30 minutes.

The third year, the 4-H'ers and adults moved to the senior center, knowing that they needed a bigger place to prepare them because they had doubled the number of bierocks from 530 to around 1,000. That year, Ethel Whitten, Mrs. Milliken's mother, was also in on the preparations.

This year, the club rolled out, prepared, baked and wrapped 152 dozen or 1,824 bierocks.

Susan Knodel, county 4-H program coordinator and former leader

of Pleasant Hill 4-H, reported that this money maker is not only profitable but is a great way to involve every 4-H member.

"The club moved the production to the high school where there was plenty of room," she said.

Much of the ingredients are donated but with that many bierocks to make, it is necessary to make some purchases.

Almost every Pleasant Hill 4-H'er got into the action.

"Big hands, little hands—there was a job for everyone," she said.

She said that the kids really have a "hands-on" experience. They, of course, wash their hands before ever starting then put on plastic gloves.

"This is the only fund raiser the club has but the money goes for community projects as well as fun club activities," she said. "And, what is nice, is the kids can see their accomplishments at the end of the day."

"We hear, 'Wow, we did that!'"

Today, the club members advertise several weeks ahead of the Chamber-sponsored fall promotion and only orders are taken and made. The only extra bierocks are those which are "mistakes" and immediately consumed by the 4-H'ers on hand.

Because the bierocks can be frozen and re-heated in the micro-



DOUGH IS ROLLED OUT and cut by Karen Jones, Pleasant Hill 4-H leader. Others helping with the production are (l to r) Andrea Knodel, Julie Brunk, Eva Krien, Terri Orth and Chris Long.

wave, they are sold in bulk to teachers, farmers and business people who need a quick sandwich at noon. However, many of the bierocks are taken home and eaten that day.

The oldest member participating on Oct. 19 was Andrea Knodel and the youngest members were Bailey Long and Jandy Dunn.

Leaders this year were Tammy Grice, Iva Krien, Jeanne Dunn and Mrs. Knodel. Mrs. Knodel noted that throughout the years, there have been some other great energetic leaders and the project couldn't have continued without their help.

Next fall, when the advertisement is seen in *The St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*, people will need to call and reserve their orders.

As most can see, the bierock production just keeps growing and the only way to get these special sandwiches, made by a recipe that has been handed down year to year, is by making that phone call.



TREVOR REED, center, was into making bierocks. Rolling a cart filled with bierocks ready to be baked is Jandy Dunn. Others pictured (l to r) are Chris Long, Bailey Long and Taylor Spike.

Photos courtesy of Susan Knodel

## Comments needed on protection program

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking public comments on the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), formerly known as the Farmland Protection Program. The 2002 Farm Bill amended the program and a proposed rule was published in the Federal Register, Oct. 29.

"While the name of the program has changed to more accurately reflect that both farms and ranches are eligible for assistance, the program's purpose, which is to protect prime, unique and important soil from conversion to nonagricultural uses through the purchase of conservation easements, re-

mains the same," said Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce I. Knight.

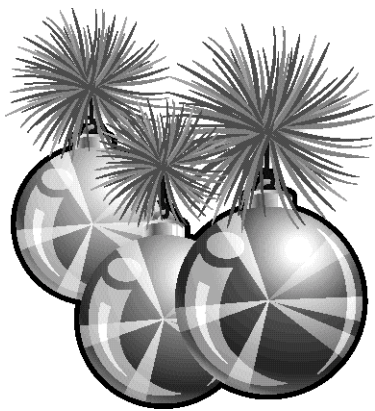
The proposed rule establishes eligibility criteria, state ranking considerations and guidelines for program administration. United States Department of Agriculture encourages written comments on the proposed rule from individuals as well as governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations during the 60 day comment period. The proposed rule can be viewed at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmland/2002/FBRules.html> "http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmland/2002/FBRules.html."

## The Saint Francis Herald

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## Bird City Times

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## Register To Win

Give-Away begins  
November 14, 2002  
with Drawing  
to be held  
December 15, 2002\*

\*tentative

Watch upcoming  
issues of  
*The St. Francis Herald* and  
*Bird City Times*  
for details!

