

County 4-H history goes back 80 plus years

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

October marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of 4-H nationwide, and it is about the 80th year for the program in Sherman County.

In the bowels of the Southwestern Bell building, which Sherman County uses for storage, there is a wealth of information about the early years of 4-H in the county. LaDona Frerichs, Sherman County extension assistant, has compiled the information into a history of 4-H in Sherman County.

In the 1920s, 4-H in Sherman County was getting a good active start. The Beaver Valley 4-H Club was organized in 1923 and the Glendale Livewires in 1924. Records show that by the early '30s there were eight active clubs.

Today, the Beaver Valley club has 35 members, and the Glendale Livewires lists 62 members.

Larry D. Morgan, who still lives in the county, was an early extension agent who helped expand the 4-H program. He started in February 1933, and at that time membership was mostly from the country. Cubs were organized in different townships and the meetings were usually held at a country school buildings. Morgan is credited with getting the Goodland Rotary Club involved in sponsoring the annual awards banquet.

Rotary continued to sponsor the banquets well into the 1960s, but today the Sherman County 4-H Council pays for the reception.

The 2002 achievement/awards ceremony with reception will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, where the best of the county young people and their leaders will be recognized for their efforts for the past year.

The 4-H's: Head, Heart, Hand and Health

Many former 4-H members continue to live in the county. Some of those mentioned in old records are Carroll Mogge, Norma Jean Yarger, Jim Yarger, Arbutus Topliff, Loraine Fenner, Marie Edwards, Lowell Chatfield, Norman Schwerdfeger, Isabel Lehman and Nelson Woolverton.

Many of the 4-H projects and activities have not changed. Members attended 4-H camps in the 30s similar to those today. The cost was \$2.25 for registration and 25 cents for a cot. The group went to Atwood Lake. Today 4-H members attend camp at Rock Springs 4-H Center south of Junction City. The cost for 4-H camp today is \$125, but that includes the food, transportation and a bunk.

Eighty years ago, the poultry project was very big, but today there are only a few members enrolled. Two projects that were not around 50 years ago were rocketry and woodworking. Live-stock, foods and clothing have always had large memberships.

The use of parliamentary procedure at club meetings has always been one of the things 4-H has been strong in. Clubs continue to be judged and compete in local and regional contests.

The 4-H records Frerichs provided include club reports from 1937 through



The 4-H club float was a winner in the Golden Jubilee parade on August 27 for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair in 1937. The pa-

rade celebrated Goodland's 50th year. The float includes the motto: "To make the best better." Photo / Sherman County Extension office

1959. The annual report from 1937, written by Morgan, seems similar to reports you'd see today.

In those years, the Extension Service handled the Farm Bureau, the Agriculture Conservation and the 4-H programs. Today Farm Bureau is a separate organization and Agriculture Conservation is now the federal Farm Service Agency.

The 1937 reports list farm bureau membership at 267, with 10 women's units with 150 members and eight 4-H clubs with 155 members.

Morgan was apparently a bit understaffed then, as happens from time to

time even today.

"A county agricultural agent only is employed in Sherman County to carry out the Extension program. Larry D. Morgan, the present agent, has been in Sherman County since Feb. 1, 1933," the report said.

"There has never been an assistant agent in this county. Although the work is large enough to require the services of two agents, and an effort has been made at different times to employ a home demonstration agent, the agricultural agent has carried out as best he can the varied phases of the Extension program."

Looking at the general conditions in

1937, Morgan wrote: Northwest Kansas is the highest part of the state, the altitude rising rapidly toward the west line, the altitude at the west line of the state near Kanorado being 3,950 feet. This tends to lower the temperature, especially at night, and thus lowers evaporation and the amount of rain necessary to produce crops. The average rainfall is 18.9 inches.

"The above statement is what we have considered normal; however, what actually existed is another story and one can very nearly be told by repeating what was given for 1934, 1935 and 1936. Severe drought conditions have prevailed the last four years, with some little improvement in 1937. When this condition exists, regular farm practices need to be replaced with emergency activities. It not only makes it necessary for the individual farmer to divert from his planned program, but the entire program of the family is changed. Naturally our Extension program, too, can not be carried out as planned.

"Livestock and poultry projects are perhaps the worst affected, as feed supply made it necessary to sell off everything but just the foundation breeding stock, and in many cases this was nec-

essary.

"Weather conditions at seeding time last fall were quite favorable, and a nearly normal acreage of wheat was put in. In early spring, moisture conditions were lacking, so only a small amount of early small grains were planted; however, the seeding of row crops was about normal. "Old man weather" again destroyed all hopes for a crop. A very small wheat crop was harvested, and practically no corn. Some grain sorghums were harvested, and considerable feed.

"Emergency activities, such as wind erosion, seed loans and relief activities, and the work with American Agriculture Association and Agricultural Conservation has in some ways interfered with our planned work....

"Although farm prices have been good, the fact that very little crops have been raised for market makes one realize that this territory has not improved financially. Farmers are, however, seriously considering better soil and crop management, moisture conservation and those things that will result in a better agriculture when moisture conditions do improve. So with that in evidence we are optimistic in our work."

List of current 4-H members by club

Beaver Valley

Albers, Alexis; Albers, Jordan; Arnold, Felicia; Arnold, Tanica; Billinger, Kaylee; Billinger, Kendra; Chatfield, Bryce; Chatfield, Heath; Christians, Ashley; Davis, Benjamin; Davis, Chance; Davis, May; Fisher, Ryan; Fisher, Tyler; Guyer, Bailee; Guyer, Bryan; Milke, Alison; Peden, Taylor; Phillips, Paige; Roeder, Andrea; Roeder, Erik; Sharp, Kala; Showalter, Shannon; Simon, Shandel; Smith, Randyll; Stefan, Kyle; Stefan, Megan; Stone, Halli; Stone, Jayci; Swager, Jessica; Swager, Melissa; Thomas, Cappi; Voth, Ricky; Williams, Kayla; and Wood, Ziggy.

Country Clovers

Bergemann, Nelson; Burkett, Emily; Burkett, Hannah; Burkett, Sawyer; Cochran, Hope; Doke, Jared; Doke, Josh; Gray, Chelsea; Gray, Lauren; Henderson, Casey; House, Jeffery; Kling, Rory; Kling, Ryder; Lake, Jessica; Meissinger, Brett; Meissinger, Candice; Murray, Abby; Murray, David; Murray, Emily; Nemechek, Breanna; Nemechek,

Bryant; Perdeu, Layne; Philbrick, Andrew; Philbrick, Samantha; Redlin, Brittney; Redlin, Brook; Redlin, Sandra; Schritter, Melissa; Sheldon, Megan; Sheldon, Stephanie; Smith, Aaron; Smith, Garrett; Starr, Paul; Vandonge, Janet; Whitmore, Brock; and Whitmore, Brooke.

Glendale Livewires

Anderson, Amy; Bauman, Deanna; Bauman, Richard; Brack, Taylor; Cooper, Cassie; Cowan, Amber; Cowan, Brandon; Cowan, Jason; Cowan, Lacie; Craft, Kathryn; Dorn, Josh; Hoffman, Amanda; Kibel, Holly; Livengood, David; Livengood, Deanna; McCracken, Carly; Owens, Gage; Owens, Linsey; Raile, Taylor; Raile, Teagan; Sheldon, Courtney; Sheldon, Kade; Smith, Tyrel; Townsend, Ross; Weeter, Tammy.

Prairie Dale

Clouse, Brennen; Deeds, Hazen; Geeseka, Christopher; Goodwin, Chloe; Hall, Michael; Herl, Jacee; Herl, Laine; Herl, Shelbi; Ihrig, Darrick; Ihrig, Kelsi; Ihrig, Tranda; Kling, Jake; Lockhart, Brooke;

McClung, Ana; McClung, Jonathan; Miller, Andrew; Miller, Matthew; Mosbarger, Jace; Mosbarger, John; Schields, Cortney; Schields, Lindsay; Schields, Whitney; Schilling, Chance; Schilling, Clayton; Stephens, A.J.; Taylor, Garrett; Taylor, Ryan; Thomas, Tiffany; Titus, Audrey; Titus, Nicole; West, Adrienne; West, Ray; West, Tamera; Wilkens, Brock; Wilkens, Drew; Wilkens, Grant; and Winter, Aubrea.

Ruleton Eager Beavers

Coon, Katelyn; Coon, Levi; Duell, Aaron; Duell, Adam; Gattshall, Rebecca; Hageman, Dylan; Johnson, Sandy; Johnson, Scot; Johnson, Shannon; Leonard, Megan; Mangus, Devin; Shores, Andrew; Shores, Lea; Studer, Sara; Wilkening, Holly; and

Winston, Sydney.

Sunflower

Chadwick, Dusti; Cook, Ashley; Fulcher, Brendan; Gausman, Chelsie; Gausman, Ryan; Hartsuiker, Chris; Hartsuiker, Dajadela; Hendrich, Nicole; Holloway, Justin; Holloway, Melissa; Irvin, Chris; Irvin, Ryan; Krayca, Jason; Krayca, Kristopher; Mason, Alyssa; Mason, Craig; Mason, Kerek; Pettibone, Michael; Promise, Kendra; Raymer, Derrick; Raymer, Donald; Raymer, Samantha; Rietcheck, Kaleen; Rietcheck, Kayler; Studer, Alicia; Studer, Christy; Topliff, Kathryn; Topliff, Kirsten; Townsend, Corbin; Wood, Kathy.

Mueller Grain
Happy 100th Birthday 4-Hers!
17th & Center
Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-3639

4-H Leads The Way To Achievement
Thanks for 100 Years of Progress 4-Hers!
Middleton Spraying Service
Goodland, Kan. • (785) 899-5781

4 CHEERS FOR 4H
Leading our youth to a brighter future!
the Prints and the Paper
119 E 12th
Goodland, Ks 67735
899-3242

4-H Builds Bright Futures
We Salute our 4-Hers & wish their continued success!
Shores Bros.
Since 1933
Auto Parts
Equipment • Tools • Hardware
Goodland, Kansas

4-H
Learning Skills that the younger generations need to survive
We Welcome our future 4-Her newborn Ashtin McClung!
McClungs Appliance & Furniture
911 Main
Goodland, Ks 67735
899-3812

4-Hers you've earned our support
4-H projects are just a part of it all. What they learn about working with others, striving to reach a goal, making decisions and caring about things not only builds character in them, it provides a strong foundation upon which to build a community.
L&W-Andrist Insurance Agency
102 E. 8th Street • Goodland, KS
785-899-5678

Northern Sun is proud to say
Congratulations for 100 years 4-Hers
NORTHERN SUN
Call us at (785) 899-6500 or (800) 542-7333
6425 Road 14 • Goodland, Kan.

4-H... Pathways to the Future
4-H helps our youth to become responsible productive citizens of their community and country.
We're proud of our 4-H'ers!
Happy 100th!
PRAIRIELAND ANIMAL CLINIC, P.A.
DR. GARY SMITH, DVM
204 N. Caldwell • Goodland, KS • (785) 899-6166

4-H ... Building Futures
Learning ... Growing ...
Working ... THAT'S 4-H!
Congratulations to the area 4-H members and their leaders on their accomplishments toward the betterment of our community.
Truck & Tractor Repair
Hwy 24 • 785-899-2401