



AT THE BEEF SHOW Chris Anderson held the head of his animal high for the judges to see.
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

4-H organization teaches life skills

In what organization can a kid make a skirt or pair of pants, grow a squash, walk a steer on a halter and build a rocket, all while learning five life skills?

Any guesses? That's right, the 4-H program, sponsored by the county Extension program and Kansas State University Research and Extension.

In Decatur County, 4-H includes 94 kids ranging in age from 7 to 18. The county has four clubs, Stick-to-It, Star Valley, Sappa Valley and Maverick.

Extension Agent Byron Hale said the kids don't pay membership dues to be part of 4-H. Any money the club needs is raised through some kind of community betterment work. The clubs meet

monthly, he said, and do different activities at their meetings.

A lot of people think 4-H is all about the projects, said Mr. Hale, but that isn't everything. The projects are there to help the kids learn or reinforce the five life skills 4-H focuses on. It is all part of the process.

Those life skills are decision making, having a positive self image, developing an inquiring mind, being able to relate to others and developing a concern for the community.

4-H is a family and youth organization, said

Mr. Hale. Dad and mom play an active role in it.

Everything the kids do in 4-H, he said, is part of the process of learning the life skills.

Some of the things members do at the county fair are to demonstrate and show the projects they have worked on.

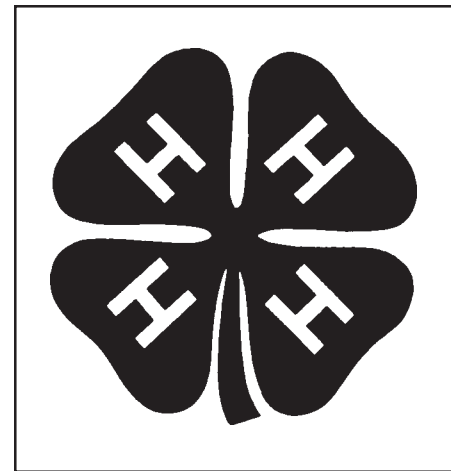
Day camps are held in many areas. Recently, said Mr. Hale, they had the Kids a Cookin' and Movin' day camp, three half days where the kids learned to make easy and healthy breakfasts. The camp cost \$2, he said, which was for food.

They also take the kids to county camp. This camp, he said, is normally in June for three nights and four days. At the Rock Springs 4-H Center near

Junction City they take part in every kind of arts and crafts, archery, trapshooting, survival skills, a ropes course, horseback riding, swimming in an Olympic size pool, canoeing, fishing, the nature center, nature hikes, night hikes and campfires.

The camps, he said, aren't just open for 4-H members. Anyone can join in.

Anyone interested in finding out more about 4-H can call the extension office at 475-8121, he said.



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