

4-H For Kodiak Youth

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IN THIS ISSUE:

4-H Helping our
Community- Keep up
the great work!

4-H Project in the
spotlight: Shooting
Sports

Project Updates

From the field: Faith
Farms Fieldtrip

Kids CRAFT Corner

4-H Office Updates

Meet our leaders:
Welcome Erin!



4-H HAVING FUN!

4-H GAME NIGHT AT THE TEEN CENTER



4-H PUPPETRY!



4-H LEADERS HARD AT WORK



4-H HOLIDAY PARTY & YOUTH LEADER CEREMONY



4-H HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

Throughout the winter, our 4-H members were able to get out in the community and show their support through community service projects. Some of our members participated in a petting zoo for a Christmas party for the Navy Seals families. We had several members participate in bell ringing, our community club made thank you bags for our local Police Officers, and also decorated and delivered tissue boxes to a variety of locations around town! Our cloverbuds are delivering cookies they make to Brother Francis Shelter this week, and Small animals is gearing up for their petting zoo at the Easter Bunny Bazaar March 24th!



KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!



4-H PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Shooting Sports: Rifle

The shooting sports Rifle project had 22 youth signed up this fall, who met weekly From October - January. Velma Vining led this project with co-leaders Jen Hagen, Eileen Lyse, Kevin Riddle and Claudia Otis.

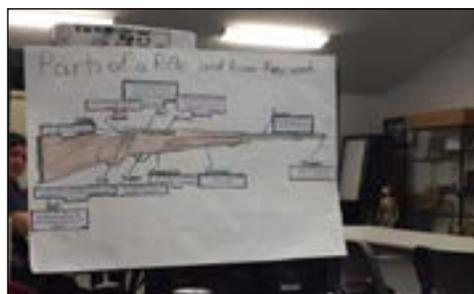
In addition to shooting, members created posters and gave presentations about a variety of topics including gun safety and parts of the gun. 4-H members, Terrence Schoenweather and LaElla Caskey, went to the KISA annual board meeting and gave presentations to thank them for their support.

4H members also participated in 2 turkey shoots and 3 members continue to shoot on Saturdays during open range with the goal of competing in a 3 position match.

With the first 9 week session of rifle in the books, Velma is gearing up for a potential second session this summer. She recently earned her Shooting Sports Coordinator certificate offered through Alaska 4-H, and is organizing an NRA Training that she and some of her co-leaders, along with 20 other community members will participate in this April. We look forward to 4-H shooting sports leaders from Anchorage coming in during this training, and are planning a 4-H leader meet and greet during their stay.

Velma also traveled to Texas this winter, and earned her Instructor/Coach Certificate for the disciplines of archery, shot-gun, rifle and pistol. We are hoping to expand our shooting sports offerings in the coming yeras, and having trained volunteers is essential to that goal. About her training, Velma says, “ I learned many aspects of teaching each discipline to young people. The most enjoyable and useful portion of the training for me was meeting the instructors who have been leading shooting sports programs in Texas for many years. Each instructor trainer for the shooting sports program in Texas has greater than 5 years coaching a 4H club. They took the time to share their perspectives on shooting sports and how to teach them. It was apparent the the development of the person was the end goal of every project.”

A big thank you to Velma, her co-leaders, the parents and members for their commitment to the 9 week session, and KISA for their support!



4-H PROJECT UPDATES

Cloverbuds

This winter, cloverbuds have been busy working on their communication skills through puppetry, and spending lots of time with bunnies, chickens and friends! We got to make our own ice cream out of snow, and will be making cookies for Brother Francis Shelter as a service project. We're looking forward to learning about horses and fiber arts this spring and summer.



Fiber Arts

Our fiber artists continue to impress! We are still meeting every Sunday and working on our project bags that will serve as artistic representations of flora and fauna as well as hold our works in progress. Various interests and talents continue to appear individually as we diversify from knitting patterns to crocheted lace to free form shaping. We begin explore needle felting and hand sewing over next couple of months. - Dana



Sustainable Living

Sustainable Living has been focusing on awareness and using our senses in the great outdoors demonstrated by hands-on activities and a special guest speaker, Nevin Lee who is a 16-year old avid hunter, fisherman and outdoorsman. We are also examining our personal as well as traditional values related to our environment, lifestyles and local, natural resources. We were fortunate to have another special guest speaker who is a native dancer, subsistence user, leader and provider, Mrs. Sophie Frets, come talk to our group during this session about our values.

In addition to getting outside more this Spring, we will be preparing for a KEA Field Trip in April and Anton Larsen Island trip in May. The awesome Sustainable Living Group is excited Spring and the harvest seasons are on their way with so much more to learn about Kodiak's plants, salmon cycle, and eating, making & putting food away. - Tonya

Small Animals

Small animals has met a few times this winter, and at our last meeting we spent time preparing for our upcoming petting zoo on March 24th at the Easter Bunny Bazaar. We picked out baskets for the bunnies and trimmed their nails. We'll be there from 10-12 for petting zoo and photo opportunities! Come Say Hi!

Horse/Horse Lovers

The horse group has been busy learning about all kinds of horse related topics. For our December meeting we discussed how to "winterize" your horse and barn. We also learned about horse nutrition and ended the meeting by making homemade horse treats which were of course horse tested and approved! In January we covered horse colors and introduced parts of the horse. In February we learned about markings and identified parts of the horse on model horses. The group will be traveling to Cottonwood Equestrian Center this week and next week 4-H horse members will each be giving a short introduction on a horse breed of their choice. - Erin



Quilting

Three people have been regular participants in the quilting class. We have been meeting since the end of January and are working on a quilt called Half Log Cabin using precut fabric strips. Illness has plagued our group and the heat issues at St. James forced us to skip last Saturday. I hope we will finish up by the end of April - one quilt top will be finished for sure and the other two will be close to finished. Our goal is to have them completed and entered into the fair. - Sandy

From the field: Faith Farms Fieldtrip

Written by Jen Hagen, Photos by Dakota Mack-Lionel



On Thursday, March 15th, the Small Animals, Fiber Arts and Sustainable Living groups enjoyed learning about what happens on Faith Farms. The sheep shearer John and his daughter, who flew up from Oregon, started off the meeting. He talked about how he became a shearer by taking a week long course in California then after practicing a lot, and with the certification he travels all over the world shearing sheep and it pays really well. There is a shortage of shearers in the world and would be a great thing for the kids to look into if they were interested in working with animals and traveling a lot.

Marilyn, Faith Farms owner, came out and talked about the history of the farm, along with the ups and downs of farming in Kodiak. She explained how bears, neighbors and neighbor dogs are hard on the heard. She has 2 llamas that are protectors of the herd, there used to be 3 but was lost after a fight with one of the neighbor dogs and this past year she lost around 40 head of sheep, which means money lost for the farm. After lambing, her heard grows up to around 240 head. There is a giant eagles nest on the farm and she explained that the resident eagles do not mess with the baby lambs and fight with other eagles that come into the area that do try to. Marilyn also explained that the sheep are very smart and will remember every one of today's visitors. The llamas will even protect and try to heard us if we came to the farm regularly.

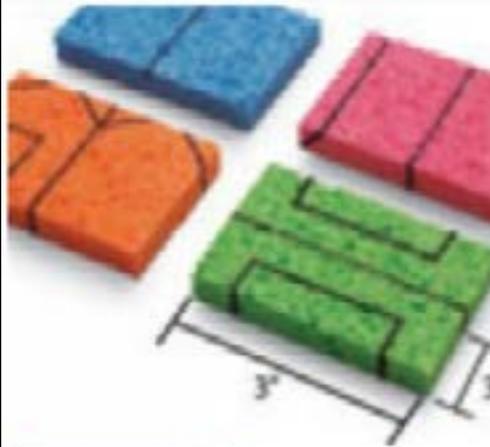
We then walked over to the shearing building where John explained what tools he used and then John's daughter demonstrated how to trim the sheep hooves and then John sheared a sheep while walking us through the whole process. Finally, he explained that he also can do vaccinations and demonstrated that as well. It was great! The 4-H members had some great questions and really learned a lot about sheep shearing!

We took a small break and went into Marilyn's home for a healthy snack which included trying some cheese that was made with sheep milk...yum! Once everyone warmed up and eaten, Marilyn walked us over to the processing area where they process the lambs and sheep for shipping, inviting us back in June to see this year's lambs. It was a memorable and great field trip! Many many thanks to Marilyn for sharing your farm and knowledge, John and daughter for sharing your passion and skill, & 4-H leaders Barbara and Marie for helping to coordinate this trip.

Kids Craft Corner: Spring is Coming!



1. Make sure the new sponges are clean by rinsing them with plenty of clean water. Wring out, but do not dry fully.
2. Draw shapes to cut on the sponges using the magic marker. Cut out the shapes using the scissors.
3. Build the house on the inside of the plastic container's lid.
4. Give the house a good spray with a water bottle so that it is damp throughout but not soaking.
5. When wet, take a handful of grass seed and sprinkle it all over the sponges.
6. Add a little extra spray of water to the seeds and remove excess seeds from the container lid.
7. Add the bottom of the container to create a mini greenhouse and position the unit in a warm place with plenty of light. Trim the grass as it grows and water as regularly **as needed**.



Repurposing Extra Egg Cartons after Easter:



Get some seeds!



Fill carton with soil and plant seeds



Water & keep the soil moist and cover with plastic bag or wrap until they sprout



hazelandcompany blog



4-H OFFICE UPDATES

Hello 4-H Families & Friends,

The longer days and spring weather are getting me really excited for planting gardens and playing outside! We have done a great job of keeping busy this winter, but we have some really exciting things planned for this spring and summer too.

Before you know it, Pancake Breakfast and Crabfest will be upon us. Just a reminder, this is an ALL HANDS ON DECK type fundraiser, so be sure your calendars have it marked - Memorial Day at the Elks! Our all member meeting in May will be spent planning for this event, so please plan to come! With crabfest usually comes pony rides too, so let us know if you're interested in helping out. Speaking of crabfest, who wants to be in the parade? We've got the crabfest parade and the 4th of July parade for fun opportunities for the kids. It would be awesome to have a parent or two take the lead on decorating a float and costumes! Last year we partnered with Threshold Recycling - who has ideas? 4-H will also be participating in Lemonade Day this year - June 9 - ask your project leader what they're planning! 4-H Summer camp is on our calendar for mid June as well, so keep your eyes open for more details coming soon.

For those of you with 4-H teens at home or alum in college, scholarship announcements will be out this week and will again be open to graduating seniors AND continuing education. Even if your 4-H'er isn't graduating this year, check out the opportunity, chances are they'll be similar in coming years.

As for the office - there's a chance that I will be on a bit of a hiatus beginning in April, lasting through July. Unless something changes drastically with the type of position I have, I will be asked to take a 120 day break in service. During those months, the best way to reach us will be through your project leader, or via e-mail at kodiak4h@gmail.com. Please be patient, and know that it's not by choice that we have this break!

Keep up the good work, and most importantly - HAVE FUN! -Kate

Meet Our Leaders: Erin Fedewa, Horse

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest 4-H leader, Erin Fedewa. Erin is co-leading our horse group. Erin grew up in central Michigan and spent her summers riding horses and raising market lambs for her local and state 4-H fairs each year. She recently moved to Kodiak to accept a position as a fisheries biologist with NOAA and is excited to share her experience with 4-H'ers here in Kodiak.

Thanks for all that you do!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday March 24

Easter Bunny Bazaar
10-12 Petting Zoo & Pictures!
Come find out more about 4-H
and meet our small animals
group! For more information,
contact Libby Eufemio



Monday, March 26 Presentation Day & Pizza Party!!

Give your presentation
between 5-6 or 6-7 at our all
member meeting. Contact
Kate at kodiak4h@gmail.com
for more information or to
sign up!! Prizes will be given
to all members who present.

Wednesday, April 4

4-H Leader Meeting
Interested in becoming a
volunteer or leader for 4-H?
Join us at our monthly meeting
to find out more!



April 1- July 31

4-H office closed



I WISH!

April 16 & May 14

All Member Event/ Meeting

More details to come!



May 28

PANCAKE BREAKFAST!
More details coming soon & at
April & May Meetings!



For a current and updated
list of upcoming events,
visit our online calendar
anytime at [http://
www.alaska4h.org/kodiak-4-h-calendar.html](http://www.alaska4h.org/kodiak-4-h-calendar.html) or
contact our office:

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