IN THIS ISSUE . . . .

* Annual Budget
* Ham Raffle
* Mini Grants
* Policy for 4-H Members Staying Overnight at the Fair

********

LEADERS' LINE
Bimonthly Newsletter
Free Subscription Upon Request

Published by
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
of Salem County

51 Cheney Rd., Suite 1
Woodstown, NJ 08098

Phone: (856) 769-0090 or 358-6140

Annette Devitt
County 4-H Agent

Lisa Perry
4-H Program Assistant

Mary Burns
4-H Secretary

********

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Educational programs are offered without regard to race, sex, handicap or disability, color, or national origin. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Annual Budget

Included in this newsletter is the annual budget for the Salem County Leaders’ Association. The budget includes the amount budgeted for 1999, the actual expenditures and income, and the amount budgeted for 2000.

One thing that will affect the budget is a decision at the February Fair Association meeting. The fair association has always been a great supporter of 4-H and FFA. For the past few years, they have had an application process for youth to use to request money for various trips and leadership opportunities. This year, the fair association will still use the process, but has allocated a certain amount of money ($800) to 4-H and each FFA (Woodstown and Penns Grove). This amount of money will continue to support the activities that we have requested funding for in the past, primarily Citizenship Washington Focus and National 4-H Congress. Please let us know if there is another leadership opportunity or national trip that may need support. An example of such a trip is the 4-H Dairy Dandies club members that request support from the Fair Association to represent New Jersey at the National 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest in 1999.

To support the 2000 budget, the leaders attending the January meeting decided to continue doing the funnel cake booth at the Bluegrass festival and using the proceeds from the Fair Dinner Bake Sales for supporting the general 4-H budget. The group also decided to have a spring raffle. All leaders should have received information about the raffle.
**New Officers**

At the January Leaders Association meeting, the group elected the following officers for 2000.

- President - Melanie Richman
- Vice President - Pat Nestor
- Secretary - Joni Suiter

Additionally, Ginny Patten and Sally Hitchner are continuing to serve as directors.

**4-H Fabric**

Guess what! There is now 4-H fabric. There are four different prints and also fabric that can be made into a pillow, a totebag, or a locker caddy. Locally, Wal-Mart will be carrying the new fabric. In fact, they already have some! Annette purchased some of the fabric on Friday, March 24. It looks like Annette and Lisa will be adding clover print jams to their collection of shorts for the fair.

At the March Leaders Association meeting, we will discuss whether or not we should have a special contest at the fair for the best items made out of 4-H fabric.

If you want to see what the new fabric looks like go to National 4-H Council’s web-site and look under “What’s New.” Here’s the address - www.fourhcouncil.edu/whatsnew/index.htm

---

**Policy for 4-H Members Staying Overnight at the Fair**

Last year we had an incident at the fair that caused us to look at the policy for 4-H members staying overnight at the fair. What we found was that while we implied that only 4-H members with animals at the fair could stay overnight on the grounds, this was not clearly stated in the materials the 4-H members receive about the fair. We also realized that most of the 4-H members staying at the fair have a limited knowledge our expectations are of their behavior while they are at the fair.

It also caused us to look at the ratio of adults to youth staying at the fair. We wanted to determine whether we were meeting the numbers recommended in the New Jersey 4-H Policy for Supervising Youth. While overall, the numbers were fine, some of the buildings (areas) had a few more youth than recommended. According to the state policy for overnight events, there should be one adult for every six youth in grades 1-7, and one adult for every 10 youth in grades 8-13.

This led to the development of a policy for 4-H members staying overnight at the fairgrounds. A DRAFT version of the policy follows. It is already what is happening for 4-H members staying in the horse area. The policy was presented and discussed at the September and November Leaders’ Association meetings.

Please read the policy and if you wish, discuss it at one of your upcoming 4-H club meetings. Based on input from 4-H volunteers and members, a final decision on the need for such a policy and the wording of the policy will be decided upon at the May Leaders’ Association meeting on Wednesday, May 31.

Also, after discussing the policy, the leaders at the September and November Leaders’ Association meeting brought up another important issue. Many times, parents will drop off their children at the fair in the morning and pick them up at the end of the day. The leaders present at the meeting felt they should not be required to be responsible for these members. Yet, they wondered if the parents assumed (expected) the leaders to be responsible for their children. This issue will also be discussed further at the May Leaders’ Association meeting.
**Ham Raffle**

Each of the leaders was sent a pack of raffle tickets for the Spring Ham Raffle. The raffle will take place on April 14 and the basket will be delivered on April 20. We are asking for all the raffle tickets and money to be returned to the 4-H office by Wednesday, April 12.

We are also looking for items to put in the basket. We want to have all the fixings for a Ham dinner. This includes items such as the ham, potatoes, vegetables, rolls, butter, a desert, colored eggs, napkins, etc. If you would like to donate something for the basket, please call the office to let us know what you are donating and then have it to the office by Tuesday, April 18. (We already have the basket!)

If each leader sells 10 tickets, we will make approximately $450 for the Leaders Association. This an easy way to raise money to support 4-H. So, if you need more tickets, we have some extra at the 4-H Office.

**Club Membership**

We wanted to update you on who we think is in your club for 1999-2000. Enclosed with the newsletter for the key leader for each club is the names of the members as of February. If there are names missing, that means they have either joined since February or we do not have their name in our computer database.

Please call us or e-mail us (devitt@aesop.rutgers.edu) with any additions or corrections.

---

**Policy for 4-H Members Staying Overnight at the Fair**

-Draft Version - 11-29-99

Bring your comments to the May meeting.

-Clearly state in newsletter and fair related letters to 4-H members that “**only 4-H members with animals** may stay overnight at the fairgrounds.”

-Each club must designate adult chaperones based on the number of members who will be staying at the fair. These adults do not need to be registered 4-H volunteers, but do need to complete the "4-H Adult Overnight Agreement/ Release Form." If there are not the appropriate number of adults, the club members may not stay overnight at the fair.

-At least one of the adults in each barn/area must be a registered 4-H volunteer.

-There will be a fair chaperone meeting prior to the fair to discuss the chaperones' responsibilities. At the chaperones' meeting we will also discuss how discipline will be handled. There are some things that are appropriate for the chaperone to handle at the time an incident happens. There are other times that the 4-H agent should be involved in determining any disciplinary action that should be taken. Also, depending on the severity of the incident, the 4-H agent will talk to the 4-H member rather than the leaders.

-The chaperones for the barn should establish a schedule of who has primary responsibility at what time during the fair.

-4-H members leaving the fairgrounds will let a chaperone know they are leaving the grounds and when they expect to return. When the 4-H member returns, they should let the chaperones know they are back on the grounds.

-All 4-H members staying overnight at the fairgrounds and one of their parents will be expected to attend a barn meeting on Wednesday so they will be clear on the rules for staying overnight at the fairgrounds. The chaperones for each barn area will also be introduced. (One of the problems last year was that 4-H members did not understand that they were supposed to be in their tent, trailers, etc. at 11:00 pm when the grounds were closed.) There will be two barn meetings scheduled on Wednesday, so that 4-H members can attend either of the times.
Next Leaders’ Association Meeting

Thursday, March 30
7:00 p.m.
Agricultural Office Complex

The dates for the rest of the Leaders’ Association meetings this year are as follows:

- Wednesday, May 31
- Thursday, September 21
- Wednesday, November 29

Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find the minutes from the November and January Leaders’ Association Meetings.

---

Mini-Grants

The Leaders' Association offers a 4-H Mini Grant program. The purpose of a Mini-Grant is to provide clubs with funds to purchase equipment to be used for 4-H project work.

In the past, clubs have received monies to purchase a camera, a fitting stand, gardening equipment and project books. At the January meeting, the association approved the budget for 2000 which included $200 being allocated for Mini-Grants.

At the May meetings, Mini-Grant applications will be reviewed and money awarded to clubs. The application for the grants is included with this newsletter.

**Deadline Dates:** To have your club’s application reviewed at the May meeting, submit the application by **Wednesday, May 24**.