Message from Taylor

Fall is one of my absolute favorite seasons! I love the winding down of our busy schedules, at least for me. I love the cool, crisp air in the morning and the swift breezes in the afternoon. I also love the colors of fall!

Fall also brings lots of new adventures for 4-H. Many of our 4-H clubs throughout Alamance County start back up in the fall of each year along with school. We currently have 14 chartered clubs in Alamance County. Several of our clubs are specific to certain schools or organizations, but more are community clubs right in your backyard. I encourage you all to view our current listing of 4-H clubs and try a new one out this fall. Who knows, you may even enjoy it!

With National 4-H Week, the NC State Fair, and State Council Conference, there are numerous things to look forward to in 4-H this fall. I really want to encourage you all to try something new this fall. Lead a class during 4-H week or enter a craft into the State Fair, or join us in November for State Council Conference. I guarantee you will have a blast.
Youth Livestock Skillathon and Judging Teams

Alamance County 4-H Youth Livestock Teams Win Big at State Contest in Raleigh, NC

Alamance County 4-H has a very active Youth Livestock Team that practices almost year-round for livestock judging, skillathon, and quiz bowl contests. On July 20-21, 2017, six youth attended the State 4-H Livestock Judging, Skillathon, and Quiz Bowl Contests at NC State University in Raleigh, NC. Alamance County 4-H entered two junior (ages 9-13) teams in the skillathon and judging contests and one junior team in the quiz bowl contest with a range of one to four years of experience. This is the fourth year that Alamance County 4-H has entered teams into the state contest. Top teams and individuals were announced on July 22, 2017, during a formal awards breakfast ceremony at NC State University.

Quiz bowl team members: Lane Whitfield, Tyler Dodson, Hope Andrews, and Aiden Kernodle placed 1st in the junior division. This is the second year in a row that Alamance County 4-H has taken home the junior quiz bowl title.

Skillathon team members: Tyler Dodson, Michael Black, and Hope Andrews won the overall junior livestock skillathon title for the contest. Their team placed 2nd in identification/written test, 2nd in quality assurance, and 3rd in overall in order to win the overall title. Alamance County 4-H entered a second team into the junior skillathon contest and those team members: Leah Black, Lane Whitfield, and Aiden Kernodle placed 7th overall in the contest. They finished in 9th place for identification/written test, 7th in quality assurance, and 8th in evaluation.

Judging team members: Tyler Dodson, Lane Whitfield, and Hope Andrews placed 7th overall in the junior livestock judging contest. They placed 5th in swine judging, 9th in beef cattle judging, 9th in sheep judging, 13th in meat goat judging, and 8th in oral reasons. Alamance County 4-H entered a second team into the junior livestock judging contest and those team members: Leah Black, Michael Black, and Aiden Kernodle placed 13th overall in the contest. They finished 14th in swine judging, 12th in beef cattle judging, 6th in meat goat judging, 8th in sheep judging, and 14th in oral reasons.

Individual awards were also given out to youth that excelled and placed in the top ten. The following youth from Alamance County 4-H were recognized individually: Hope Andrews: 3rd place in skillathon identification/written test, 2nd place in skillathon quality assurance, 3rd place overall in skillathon, and 8th place in swine judging. Aiden Kernodle: 3rd place in sheep judging and 2nd place in meat goat judging. Tyler Dodson: 5th place in skillathon identification/written test and 9th overall in skillathon. Michael Black: 5th place in skillathon quality assurance and 7th place overall in skillathon.

Further accomplishments include the following youth: Lane Whitfield: 15th place in skillathon identification/written test and 18th place overall in skillathon.

To learn more about the Youth Livestock Program and/or 4-H in Alamance County please contact Taylor Jones, 4-H Extension Agent or Lauren Langley, Livestock Extension Agent.

National 4-H week will be held from October 2nd through the 6th. We will have programs just about every evening that week here at Alamance County 4-H. One program will be the Extreme Makeover: Soft Skills Edition. This workshop will be all about resumes, applications, interviews, and job skills training. This particular program is actually a 5-week course, meeting every Monday in October.

Another night, we will have the 4-H Chopped Competition. Here, youth from Alamance County will compete in creating their own food dishes and table settings to impress the judges that will score them. Once the evening is finished, we will have an awards ceremony where we will announce the 4-H Chopped Champion.

We will also have workshops on electricity, perhaps local government, and even a movie night! More information will be forthcoming regarding our National 4-H week celebration and I look forward to seeing you all during that week’s events.
NC State Fair October 12th-22nd, 2017
The North Carolina State Fair has so many opportunities for youth people to participate in. One of the biggest opportunities is the 4-H Arts & Crafts portion of the Fair. Here, you can just about submit any form of art or craft that you have done in 4-H and it will be on display for the length of the Fair and will be judged for prize ribbons! From entomology projects, to cake decorating and your hand-sewn dress, there are no restrictions on the art that you can submit.

Another large portion of the Fair is the livestock. You can show just about any sort of livestock you have at the State Fair: horses, cows, turkeys, chickens, sheep, and hogs. We have several 4-H members in Alamance County that show many different kinds of livestock. This is something that everyone should experience at least once in their 4-H career!

If you would like more information about 4-H entries at the NC State Fair, please contact Taylor or visit the website at http://www.ncstatefair.org/2017/Competitions/Entering/4HCompetition.html

Fall 4-H Plant Sale
Alamance County 4-H would like to ask for your support as we raise funds for our scholarship and programming efforts. Not only will you be supporting a great organization, but you'll be growing your own food! This year, we plan to offer apple trees, Asian and European pear trees, blackberry plants, figs, muscadines, and peach trees.

Proceeds benefit 4-Hers directly and indirectly. 4-Hers can earn scholarship money by participating in county events, and this money can help pay for 4-H Camp, Summer Fun, teen events, and more. This is also an important year for our Fall Plant Sale Fundraiser because we bought a van earlier this year and we want to continue to offer scholarships and programs to the youth of Alamance County. We need everyone’s support and help as we continue our annual Fall Plant Sale. With a few new additions to the brochure, we hope you can find something that you can enjoy in your own backyard. We hope to release the dates and plant sale brochure very soon.

Tractor Supply Company Paper Clover Campaign
The dates of our Fall 2017 Paper Clover Campaign at Tractor Supply Company will be October 4th-15th. This event is a national in-store fundraiser for our 4-H organization. People have the opportunity to purchase paper clovers and the funds raised from these sales goes directly to help 4-H programming all across the country. I want to encourage you all to help us during this campaign by visiting our local Burlington Tractor Supply Company during this time and purchasing a paper clover. I would also like to invite you to volunteer your time and help us out with the display table/information booth that we will have set up during the length of the event. Clubs that participate can even enter the National 4-H Sweepstakes where they could win $100 for their club! Again, this has the potential to be a huge fundraiser for us right here in Alamance County so we would like to have as much participation from our local 4-H participants as possible. If you are interested in helping to make this event successful, please contact Taylor for more information.
State Council Conference

Our State Council Conference this year will take place in Raleigh on November 4th and 5th. This event is sort of like a miniature 4-H State Congress, however everything is put together by your Council officers from the State and Districts. All workshops are leadership and community service oriented and generally are taught by either District Officers or 4-H Agents and Associates. More information regarding theme and registration details will be forthcoming later this Fall.

Alamance County Cooperative Extension Events

Alamance County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

Plant Sale September 20th, 9am-6pm.

Think Green Thursdays Remaining: All Classes are Free and begin at 10:00AM. Registration is Required.

September 7th - Drought Tolerant Plants
28th - Putting the Garden to Bed for the Winter

October 5th - Planting Trees and Shrubs
19th - Snow Birds- The Flocks of Winter

Alamance County 4-H Youth Development

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran's status. In addition, the two universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.