



4-H Connection



Virginia Cooperative Extension, Powhatan County Office

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Switzerland exchange student joins local 4-H equine club

Submitted by Rebecca Rash, reporter for Foal N' Around 4-H Club

Foal N' Around 4-H Club has grown as a team and a family over the past few years. New experiences and lessons play a huge part in this growth. This year, our 4-H club has had the honor of Cyril Fischer joining us as we aspire to achieve the 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better." Cyril is a foreign exchange student from Switzerland, here in Powhatan County with the company Education First.

After just a brief interview with Cyril, I've learned so many unique qualities about this young man. As we sat down to chat, Cyril explained the vast differences between Switzerland and America. In this country, he explained that we have buses

that carry us to school, whereas in Switzerland there is only public transportation for high school students. The way we eat and the types of food are also different. Lunch during school is much shorter in America, and our patriotism plays a huge role in society. Cyril describes his favorite experience thus far as simply being a part of Powhatan High School (PHS) and all the activities our school offers its students. He has one sister, Seraina, who also enjoys horseback riding and will be coming to Powhatan next fall as an exchange student.

Cyril's favorite hobbies include swimming, which he participated in for eight years as a swim club member; snow skiing, which he still enjoys after twelve



years; and horseback riding, which he has done for six years now.

The favorite part of being a member of Foal N' Around 4-H Club for this local exchange student is the opportunity it gives

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Pictured from left: Coach Rob French, Team Members: Layne Lancaster, Raleigh Willis, Elizabeth Jones, Sarah Jane French, Coaches: Rachel Grosse and Henry Paris

Youth Cattle Working team earns third place in region

The Heart of Virginia (HOV) 4-H Livestock Club, made up of Powhatan and Cumberland youth, had a team of three compete at the Southern Piedmont Regional Youth Cattle Working Contest on Friday, March 14. The team placed 3rd overall. Youth worked the past six months in preparation for the contest that was held in Blackstone, VA. This contest develops youth skills in animal management and handling. Working as a team, youth efficiently processed three stocker calves utilizing Beef Quality Assurance guidelines. Regional competitions are held in the spring throughout the state; the top teams from each region then compete at the State Youth Cattle Working Contest held in conjunction with the 2014 Virginia Cattle Industry Convention. Trainings for this team were made possible from the support of the cattle producers who hosted practices at their facilities. This was the first time any of the youth had participated on a youth cattle working team.

Local youth shine at VGIF state competition

The Powhatan 4-H Shooting Club recently demonstrated how practice and dedication can go a long way in a state competition. More than 25 members of the local 4-H club, along with just as many parents and adult volunteers, traveled to Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox for the annual Hunter Education Championship in May.

The local youth – between the ages of 9 to 18 – started practicing in late February to hone their skills. This paid off as the first junior and senior teams from Powhatan received the highest honor in the contest as overall junior and senior team awardees. The overall individual junior trophy

was awarded to Amy Adcock.

According to Club Leader Frankie Barham, Amy is the first female participant to receive this recognition. Amy will be in 9th grade at Powhatan High School this fall.



Following are other team and individual high scores: Jack Smith and Tripp Smith



took 2nd place as overall individual junior and senior, while the second junior team took 3rd place overall.

Outdoor Skills: 1st place – 1st Junior team, 3rd place – 1st Senior team; Archery: 1st place – 1st Junior team, 3rd place – 1st Senior team; Hunter Responsibility Test: 3rd place – 2nd Junior team, 1st place – 1st Junior team, 2nd place – 2nd Senior team, 1st place – 1st Senior team; Shotgun: 1st place – 1st Junior team, 1st place – 1st Senior team; Rifle: 3rd place – 2nd Junior team, 2nd place – 1st Junior team, 1st place – 1st Senior team; Outdoor Skills: Grayson Melton – 1st place Junior; Archery: Tripp tied for

1st place in a three-way tie, which was broken by the first target. Hunter Responsibility Test: Grayson – 1st place Junior, Tripp – 1st place Senior; Shotgun: Jack – 1st place Junior, and Tripp – 1st place Senior.

Thanks to the National Rifle Association, Federal Premium Ammunition, Dominion, Altria and Car Maxx for their continued financial and equipment support of Powhatan 4-H Shooting Club. A hunter safety course will be offered on August 16 by local 4-H volunteers. To register, please go to the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries website.

Exchange Student *Continued from page 1*

him to be around horses on a regular basis. When home in Switzerland, Cyril said he usually only rides horses once a week. Being a part of a club is also very new to Cyril, something which he says he thoroughly enjoys. He is not only a member of a 4-H club, but also FFA and FFA horse judging at PHS which he is thrilled to participate. Hidden passions for photography and traveling have taken Cyril to Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Italy, England, and Germany.

Overall, Cyril said that being here in America has made him feel more open and self-confident. Not only has Cyril matured during his stay in Powhatan, but he said he has grown into America's "melting pot" and has been able to see and adapt to our United Country. In the future, Cyril plans to finish high school, go to college, and become either a doctor or lawyer. He would also like to be a part of the exchange program back home where he can share and tell others how wonderful it is to visit America.

This interview with Cyril only describes our impact on him, but in reality his impact on us is truly life changing. Our club has witnessed his intriguing passion for horses and constant willingness to learn. Cyril has taught us to accept newness and treasure, not just people who are alike, but embrace the beautiful differences among us all. He has fused into our family and as he has learned from us, but we have also greatly learned from him. Cyril has a constant smile and light about him that we have cherished and will miss when he leaves us in June.

Thanks to our 2014 4-H Camp and Scholarship Sponsors:

- Colonial Farm Credit
- Davis-Merchant Equipment
- Luck Stone of Powhatan
- Powhatan Christmas Mother
- R.C. Goodwyn & Sons
- RHB Insurance
- Rick's Grading & Excavating
- Woman's Club of Powhatan

4-H is a **community** of **young people** across **America** who are learning **leadership, citizenship** and **life skills.**

4-H Calendar

June 2014

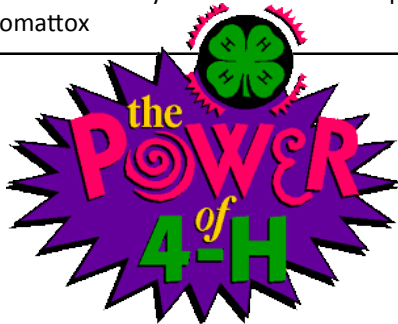
~4-H Congress: June 16-19 at VT Tech
 ~2014 Virginia Youth Sheep & Goat Symposium: June 28 at VT, details go to www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock

July 2014

~Intermediate 4-H Congress: July 7-10 at Virginia State University
 ~4-H Jr Camp: July 21-25 at Jamestown 4-H Center in Williamsburg
 ~Summer Cloverbud Camp: Adventures in Nature (ages 5-8): July 12-13 at Jamestown 4-H Center;
www.jamestown4hcenter.org

August 2014

~4-H Shooting Education Camp: August 10-14 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Ap-pomattox



Virginia 4-H License Plates

Orders are now being taken for the new Virginia 4-H license plate! Virginia 4-H is seeking a revenue sharing plate. Once the minimum sales requirement has been met, revenue will be used to fund scholarships for 4-H members. They must have 450 orders complete with payment before it can be introduced in the General Assembly. The unit that collects the most orders will receive a \$500 programming grant, the second most will receive \$400 in programming funds, and 3-5th place will receive \$250. The order form can be found at this link:

<http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/virginia-clovers/files/2014/05/vsa10-virginia-4-H.docx>



Open for business! 1st Thursdays, 4-7pm



Powhatan 4-H Profile: *Madison Bonner*

Madison Bonner is not your typical high school athlete. This Powhatan High School sophomore recently became certified as a High School Equestrian Athlete through the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). To achieve this designation, one must complete 100 hours of riding time which is logged into a record book, compete in three equine competitions and maintain passing grades. Madison also happens to be



an honor roll student at PHS and serves as secretary of Powhatan Riders 4-H Equestrian Club.

According to the young rider's mother Jackie Bonner, "We are very proud of her commitment to doing what she loves." Madison's journey began in 2011 with the purchase of a pony, 4-year-old Brittney Spurs, from a local equine rescue. Brittney had been starved and wasn't even under saddle yet, but Madison, along with her trainer, Caitlin Ashton (a

former 4-H member) saw her potential. With hard work, hundreds of hours of riding and determination, Madison took Brittney to Lexington to compete in her first State 4-H Horse Show in 2012, coming home with several ribbons.

By 2013, the pair had won the Greater Richmond Horse Show Association (GRHSA) year-end Champion in Large Pony Hunter and Pony Equitation categories. They also finished the 2013 season in 6th place overall in the Large Pony Hunter class for the Virginia Horse Show Association (VHSA), out of more than 115 young people. Madison attended the VHSA awards ceremony at the Homestead in Hot Springs, VA in Dec.

The duo started the 2014 season with big plans. They hope to compete in the 4-H Southern Regional Horse Championships in Raleigh, NC in July. Only the top ranking 50 qualified 4-H riders will represent Virginia in this regional contest. In the fall, Madison will join an IEA Interscholastic riding team which will compete at schools across the Mid-Atlantic. Their consistent hard work, dedication and involvement with 4-H has certainly paid off! Madison plans to continue riding horses after high school on a college team and manage her own training barn upon graduation.

4-H Club Reports

Heart of Virginia 4-H Livestock Club and the PJHS FFA were well-represented at the Piedmont Livestock Show and Sale in Blackstone in May bringing home several impressive recognitions Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Hog Show: Sarah Jane French, Grand Champion Hog and Reserve Champion Hog, 1st place in Sr Showmanship, 1st in Class 3 (250-265 lbs), 1st/2nd in Class 4 (270-280)

Beef Show: Sarah Jane French (Grand Champion Beef) 1st in Sr Beef Showmanship; Caroline Adkins, 4th in Intermediate Beef Showmanship; Anna Pantos, 1st in Novice Beef Showmanship; and Henry Adkins, 2nd in Novice Beef Showmanship



Dairy Steer: Anna Pantos, 4th (pictured above); Caroline Adkins, 5th; Henry Adkins, 6th

Feeder Steer: Sarah Jane French, Grand Champion Feeder Steer

Lamb Show: Jordan Newman (Grand Champion Lamb) 1st Intermediate Lamb Showmanship, 1st Class 6; Sarah Jane French (Reserve Champion Lamb) 1st Sr Lamb Showmanship, 1st Class 4, 2nd Class 6; Elizabeth Newman, 2nd Intermediate Lamb Showmanship, 2nd in Class 4



Ewe Lamb Classes: Sarah Jane French (Grand Champion Ewe) 1st Class 1; Jordan Newman, 1st Class 1; Elizabeth Newman (Reserve Champion Ewe) 1st Class 3 (pictured above)



A small group of **4-H Cloverbuds** from Powhatan have been working on a Lego Robotics project and had the great honor of being invited to participate in a symposium at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Operations Center. The team members conducted a skit for Emergency Management personnel and private business leaders in the community. Their skit showed ways that one can be prepared for a natural disaster. The young 4-H members also displayed their Lego model and poster discussing their chosen natural disaster topic, tsunamis. The kids got a lot of smiles and laughs from their audience. It was a great experience for all!

Hunter Safety Course will be offered again in Powhatan this summer. Several volunteers from Powhatan 4-H Shooting Club offer to teach this course locally for area residents. This year's class: Saturday, August 16, at the Powhatan Village Building. Registration/details are online at VA Game and Inland Fisheries.

Virginia 4-H and North Carolina 4-H have won the bid to host the **2014 National 4-H Shooting Education Certification Training**. The program will be held November 3-7, 2014 at the Eastern North Carolina 4-H Center. Watch for more information to follow.

It's Almost Summertime!

Last day of school is just around the corner! Some 4-H clubs are taking a break for the summer while others are just getting into their groove... several volunteer opportunities are available—if interested please give me a call to discuss further.

Cathy Howland

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