

Jefferson County 4-H salutes member 'touchdowns'

By Pam Chickering Wilson, Union staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 9:19 am

JEFFERSON — With “tailgate party” snacks, Packers-related door prizes and football fan-themed outfits, the Jefferson County 4-H program honored “touchdowns” by its members and volunteers during its annual awards event Sunday evening.

Numerous members and supporters received recognition for outstanding efforts in a great variety of categories, from top fundraising to outstanding recordbooks to project awards and participation in outside enrichment opportunities such as Space Camp, Citizenship Washington Focus or the international exchange to Japan.

The event, sponsored by the Jefferson County 4-H Leaders Association Awards Committee, drew more than 100 attendees.

Sharon Schweitzer, who with her husband, Robert, have been stalwart supporters of and volunteers for Jefferson County 4-H over many years, received Jefferson County’s nomination this year to be in the Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame.

The hall of fame was established this year in celebration of the 100th anniversary of 4-H in Wisconsin. The actual award will be presented later this year in Wisconsin Dells at the Wisconsin 4-H Fall Forum.

Schweitzer, the natural sciences leader for the county, not only organizes monthly explorations in the natural sciences for 4-Hers of all ages, but also is available at any time to answer questions, help guide projects and fair exhibits and to give presentations or lead activities for individual clubs.

Schweitzer has been a 4-H leader and volunteer for 24 years and was instrumental in starting the 4-H shooting sports program in Jefferson County.

Presenting the award, Isaac Elsen of the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club said that when his family moved to Jefferson County from Ripon seven years ago, they wanted to continue their involvement in 4-H, but were disappointed to find that not all of the projects they had been involved in at their old location were available or had leaders in Jefferson County.



4-H 'TOUCHDOWN'

4-H 'TOUCHDOWN' — The Jefferson County 4-H program held a “tailgate party” Sunday afternoon to honor the “touchdowns” scored by 4-Hers from across the county during the past year and also to honor major volunteers or supporters of the program. Receiving the top-level award for Jefferson County 4-H this year are Brita Ager-Hart of the Duck Creek 4-H Club, Tyler Degner of the Hubbleton Hustlers 4-H Club, Meghan Splinter of Ixonia Victory, and Emily Stendel of the Sullivan Stars (Degner was unable to be present for the awards ceremony). Pictured here, from left, are Splinter, Stendel, and Ager-Hart. To receive the Emerald Award, 4-Hers must first earn the Green, Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards, taking a year or more to earn each level through participation in club and county events, volunteer service and achievement. For more photos click [here](#).

They were getting discouraged, but a simple call to Schweitzer turned their experience around.

“Mrs. Schweitzer eagerly jumped in to help with projects like canoeing,” Elsen said, noting that the Jefferson County volunteer and leader has been vital in keeping his own family involved in 4-H, as well as enriching the experiences of many other youth and families.

Meanwhile, Jefferson County 4-H has around 800 youth members countywide, and about 150 of those youth turned in annual recordbooks. At Sunday’s event, 138 of those members were honored for their recordbooks.

Receiving top “Award of Excellence” ratings were Roald Ager-Hart, Jefferson, of the Duck Creek 4-H Club; Ethan Richardt, Johnson Creek, of the Farmington All-Stars; Megan Agnew, Fort Atkinson, of the Hebron Helping Hands; Jessica Telfer, Fort Atkinson, of the Hebron Helping Hands; Courtney Kreger, Fort Atkinson, of the Ideal Clever Clovers; Oliver Small, Watertown, of the Ixonia Victory 4-H Club; and Gabriel and Isaac Elsen of Watertown, members of the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club.

The top entrants received a ribbon and a 4-H Centennial book, “Badger State Buddies” for their efforts.

Sarah Torbert, youth development/4-H agent for the University of Wisconsin-Extension’s Jefferson County office, said that record keeping is just one of the many life skills that youth learn through their project work.

Courtney Kreger of the Ideal Clever Clovers had the honor of presenting the “Volunteer of the Year” award, which went to her mother, Kim Kreger, who dedicates countless hours every year to the Meat Animal Project. She also chairs the Clothing Committee and heads up the annual Family/Project Learning Day. Courtney said that she is proud to have been able to benefit from her mom’s guidance and support over the years, support she extends to 4-H as a whole as she is willing to drop everything to help the program in any way.

Also recognized were past and present members of the 4-H Leaders’ Association Board.

The 2013-14 board, which finished its term in June, included Anne Davies-Walsh, Amy Heine, Crystal Hoffmann, Steve Hoffmann, Jayne Jenke, Sigrid Reich, Linda Ager, Warren Stendel and Lois Wiedenhoef.

Hoffmann received special recognition Sunday marking his retirement from the board.

Serving on the Awards Committee this year were Crystal Hoffman, Lois Wiedenhoef, Warren Stendel, Sarah Mueller and Lisa Small.

Among the youth members recognized Sunday was Hubbleton Hustlers photographer Ethan Degner, who received special accolades for the photos he took and book he created of every member in the club and his or her 4-H aspirations.

Three club secretary books received honors, with high honors going to Adriana Reyes-Ehrke of the Ideal Clever Clovers 4-H Club, and merit awards going to Cheryl Dorn of the Jefferson Boosters and Makayla Loppnow of Ixonia Victory.

Tyler Degner of the Hubbleton Hustlers received the Award of Excellence for his treasurer’s book.

Treasurer high honors went to Mikayla Mehring of the Palmyra Oak Hill Hustlers and Wyatt Rosenow of the Palmyra Live Wires. Honors went to Victor Michel of the Rock Lake Troopers and merit awards went to Leah

Uecker of the Lucky Clovers.

Volunteer leaders went to leaders having served one, five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years, with the Emerald Leader Award for 25 years of service presented to Pearl Pernat of Oconomowoc and Mary Mess of Watertown.

Other leader service awards went to: first-year leaders (bronze) Amanda Burke of the Country Clovers, Olivia Peter of the Hubbleton Hustlers, Stephanie Zimmerman of the Hubbleton Hustlers, Laurie Christian of Ixonia Victory, Joey Mattson of the Lake Mills Legendaries, Jeff West of the Lucky Clovers, Angie Heald of the Lucky Stars, Megan Schuett of the Lucky Stars; five-year leaders (silver) Marsha Graffin of the Country Clovers, Dan Splinter of Ixonia Victory, Jean Borchardt of the Lucky Clovers, Paul Elsen of the Lucky Clovers, Scott Friess of the Palmyra Oak Hill Hustlers, and Elizabeth Barton of the South Side Eagles; 10-year leaders (gold) Tammy Telfer of the Hebron Helping Hands, Heidi Schmidt of the Lucky Clovers, John Mehring of the Palmyra Oak Hill Hustlers, Michelle Mehring of the Palmyra Oak Hill Hustlers; 15-year leaders (pearl) Kim Kreger of the Ideal Clever Clovers, Donna Hann of Ixonia Victory, Melissa Pauli of the Lucky Clovers, and Cindy Jaquith of the Stone School 4-H Club; and 20-year leader (diamond) Dee Winkelman, independent.

Receiving Project Awards for outstanding involvement, leadership and performance in individual projects, were:

Drew Dettmann of the Farmington All-Stars for junior dairy; Jason Gruenwald of the Hubbleton Hustlers, junior woodworking; Rianne Remsik of the Buckaroos 4-H Club, junior cats; Liliana Reyes-Ehrke of the Ideal Clever Clovers, junior clothing; Trenton Zahn of the Stone School 4-H Club, junior poultry; Megan Agnew of the Hebron Helping Hands, intermediate goats; Morgan Bauer of the Maple Street Hustlers, intermediate sheep; Miranda Blake of the Farmington All-Stars, intermediate cultural arts; Teagan Gray of the Cream of the Crop 4-H Club, intermediate foods and photography; Courtney Kreger of the Ideal Clever Clovers, intermediate rabbits and swine; Jamison Richardt of the Farmington All-Stars, intermediate robotics; Jessica Telfer of the Hebron Helping Hands, intermediate goats; Matthew Lucht of the Stone School 4-H Club, intermediate goats; Gabe Elsen of the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club, senior beekeeping; Anna Lucht of the Stone School 4-H Club, senior goats; Lacey Mehlretter of the Lucky Clovers, senior cats; Isaac Elsen of the Lucky Clovers, senior wildlife and archery, and Nicole Wright of the Farmington All-Stars, senior dairy.

The Rock Lake Troopers 4-H Club was honored as the top club participating in this year's dairy promotion challenge for its educational Culver's Scoopie Night. Other participating clubs, honored by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, included the Lucky Clovers, Hubbleton Hustlers and South Side Eagles.

This year's Green-and-Gold Award honorees were unable to be present, but were recognized in their absence. Their club, the Palmyra Oak Hill Hustlers, nominated Johan and Michelle Mehring for going "above and beyond" as that club's go-to-leaders, event volunteers and helpers with whatever initiative the club decides to tackle.

Recognized for top sales in the county pizza and pie fundraiser to support programming and special opportunities were Christopher Nordness of the South Side Eagles, Alexis and Camden Schultz of the Rock Lake Troopers, Courtney Kreger and Tristan Schultz of the Ideal Clever Clovers, Bryce Zimmerman of the South Side Eagles, and Josh, Karleena and Marissa Battist of the South Side Eagles. Nordness was the top seller overall.

These honorees received Visa gift cards sponsored by Emil's Pizza.

Trip awards were awarded for state, national and international enrichment opportunities.

Participating in the National 4-H Congress were Brita Ager-Hart of the Duck Creek 4-H Club and Pauline Schlais of the Sullivan Stars.

Participating in Citizenship Washington Focus were Isaac Elsen of the Lucky Clovers and Mikayla Kind of the Country Clovers.

Participating in the Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum were Kiley Eck of the South Side Eagles, Miranda Golz of the Sullivan Stars, Briana Griswold of the Maple Street Hustlers, Gabby Learman of the South Side Eagles, Anna and Matthew Lucht and Katherine Novak of Stone School 4-H, and Daniel Reich of the Country Clovers.

Attending Space Camp were Courtney Kreger of the Ideal Clever Clovers, Ashlynn Primmer and Camden Schultz of the Rock Lake Troopers, Emma Statz of the Farmington All-Stars, Eli Schoenike of the Country Clovers, and Jacob Schlais of the Sullivan Stars.

Finally, attending the LABO international 4-H exchange in Japan was Erin Walsh of the Farmington All-Stars.

The leaders board honored all 4-H club leaders for their efforts throughout the year, including Linda Ager, Tammy Banker, Peggy Brandenburg, Kim Degner, Nancy Doherty, Pam Drewek, Shelley Gard, Carol Eck, Toni Isaacsen, Tina Remsik, Heidi Hanus, Sara Heideman, Amy Heine, Trent and Pam Topel, Crystal Hoffmann, Jayne Jenks, Deb Kind, Mary Schoettel, Megan Lundy, Michele Mattrisch, Joey Mattson, Mary Beth Mess, Kitty Messmann, Terri Opgenorth, Barb Parsons, Jessica Pfeifer, Tammy Renforth, Dawn Ridgewell, Christy Schreiner, Lisa Small, Cheryl Splinter, Warren Stendel, Tammy Telfer, Jone Walechka, Jennifer Yurs, and Jenny Zweig.

The final awards presented were the clover awards, which went to club members documenting a high level of involvement, service and performance in their own clubs and on the county and state level.

Cloverbuds, the youngest 4-Hers, cannot apply, but as of their first year as a regular 4-Her in third grade, members can apply for the Green Award. Having achieved the Green Award, they can then apply in a successive year for the Bronze Award and so on through silver and gold, with the top level being the Emerald Award.

Each year, the number of points members must achieve gets higher and often it can take more than one year to attain the next honor.

Green Award winners for 2014 went to Roald Ager-Hart of the Duck Creek 4-H Club, Megan Agnew of the Hebron Helping Hands, Hanna Brattlie and Clarissa Gross of the Rock Lake Troopers, Tawney Hadler of the Country Clovers, Dean Loppnow III and Oliver Small of Ixonia Victory; Liliana Reyes-Ehrke of the Ideal Clever Clovers; Ethan Richardt, Colleen Wilson, and Jordan Topel of the Farmington All-Stars; Elee and Jessica Sharp of the Country Clovers; and Nicole van Zanten of the Jefferson Boosters.

Receiving Bronze Awards were Elsa Ager-Hart of Duck Creek; Seeger Bos of Stone School; Chynarose Degner and Ethan Degner of the Hubbleton Hustlers, Andrew Dettmann, Nora Statz, and Jamison Richardt of the Farmington All-Stars; Makayla Loppnow of Ixonia Victory; Kayla Price of the Sullivan Stars; Ashlyn Primmer of the Rock Lake Troopers, Adriana Reyes-Ehrke of the Ideal Clever Clovers; Savannah Steffen and Lincoln Wegner of the Hubbleton Hustlers, and Karley Tessmer of the Waterloo Wonder Stars.

Silver Awards went to Alexander Ellifson, Emma Statz, and Jack Schoettel of the Farmington All-Stars, Gabriel

and Isaac Elsen of the Lucky Clovers, Jason Gruenwald of the Hubbleton Hustlers, and Trenten Zahn of Stone School.

Gold Awards went to Morgan Bauer of the Maple Street Hustlers, Miranda Blake of the Farmington All-Stars, Courtney Kreger of the Barnyard Clovers, Natalie Stendel of the Sullivan Stars, and Jessica Telfer of the Hebron Helping Hands.

The top Emerald Award went to Brita Ager-Hart of Duck Creek, Tyler Degner of the Hubbleton Hustlers, Meghan Splinter of Ixonia Victory, and Emily Stendel of the Sullivan Stars.

The leaders' board also honored three "Friends of 4-H," Paul and Mariah Hadler of Busy Barns Adventure Farm and Pam Chickering Wilson of the Daily Jefferson County Union. The Hadlers were recognized for their support of youth programming and the importance of agriculture in the lives of young people, while Chickering Wilson was recognized for raising the profile of 4-H in the public eye.

Following the awards program, youth and their families could learn about numerous county, state, national and international 4-H opportunities through displays put together by county participants.

These included National 4-H Congress, Citizenship Washington Focus, Wisconsin Youth Conference, and LABO exchange to Japan.

For more information about 4-H and the many opportunities it has to offer, people may contact the Jefferson County UW-Extension office at (920) 674-7295.