

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

OCT. 5 – OCT. 11, 2025



Beyond Ready

2024-2025 4-H Community Club Membership in Yellow Medicine County

submitted by Alicia Webb

Burr Bustlers 4-H Club

Meeting location: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Canby

Club Volunteers: Katie Groenhoff, Jill Winters, Crystal Smith, Michelle Brunsvig and Jozzy Norbistrath

Club Members: Miranda Anderson, Gabriel Anderson, Charlotte Brunsvig, Savannah Brunsvig, Victoria Brunsvig, Willow Brunsvig, Tristan Fehl, Korbyn Groenhoff, Chella Hoffman, Chevelle Hoffman, Cheyenne Hoffman, Jaylen Norbistrath, Damien Schrunk, Ida Schrunk, Adrianna Smith, Allison Winters, James Winters and Jacob Winters

4-Leaf Clovers 4-H Club

Meeting Location: Wood Lake

Club Volunteers: Amanda Hansen, Derek Hansen, Patty Massmann Greg Massmann and Trisha Massmann

Club Members: Ruthie Anderson, Thomas Anderson, Everett Cole, Charlotte Hansen, Gretchen Hansen, Phinneas Hansen, Quintin Hansen, Tomi Lecy, Greyson Kvendru, Aubrey Massmann, Aurora Massmann, Austen Massmann, Brett Massmann, Brody Massmann, Mia Wagner, Lydia Webb and Joanna Webb

Independent 4-H Members

Members: Braxton Petersen and Savannah Seidell

Oshkosh Wide Awakes

4-H Club

Meeting Location: Canby Community Center

Club Volunteers: Lori Rangaard, Dana Mamer, Alisha VanDerostyne and



THE BURR BUSTLERS 4-H CLUB organized a cleanup effort for the ditches in Burr Township.

Amanda Rangaard

Club Members: Karter Canatsey, Nathan (Jimmy) Canatsey, Daniel Ferguson, Edward Ferguson, Violet Ferguson, Gracie Mamer, Suttyn Mamer, Triston Mamer, Aliyah Rangaard, Jace Rangaard, Jack Rangaard, Kendra Rangaard, Ty Rangaard, Ryan Syring, Aaden VanDerostyne, Aavry VanDerostyne, Karli Weber, Kaden Wintheiser, Kaleb Wintheiser and Kalie Wintheiser

Prairie Runners 4-H Club

Meeting Location: Clarkfield City Hall

Club Volunteers: Sara Jorgens, Melinda Hedman and Harlie Schearer

Club Members: Thea Bartz, Ava Berg, Benjamin Berg, Ciara Berg, Grace Grinager, Jemma Gustafson, Caitlynn Hedman, Addison Jorgens, Elizabeth Jorgens, Granger Roder, Peyton Roder, Huntleigh Wendler and Landry Wendler

Wergeland Willing Workers 4-H Club

Meeting Location: Porter Fire Hall

Club Volunteers: Trish Bordewyk, Anna Kamrath, Randy Kamrath, Mark Pesek, Shelly Schrunk, Trisha Kay Hoffman, Holly Martinmaas and Allyson Pesek

Club Members: Cayleigh Bordewyk, Sage Bordewyk,

Charlotte Boulton, Kolt Carlson, Cora Driessen, Jessa Driessen, Polaris Driessen, Hannah Groenhoff, Alex Hoffman, Eli Hoffman, Maxten Hoffman, Taten Hoffman, Izzy Kamrath, James Kamrath, Bentley Miller, Hadley Noyes, Hayden Noyes, Mak Pesek, Mya Pesek, Carter Schrunk, Grant Schrunk and Lexie Schrunk

Yellow Medicine 4-H Horse Club

Meeting Location: Helena Building, Canby

Club Volunteers: Miranda Antony, Kayla Antony, Gwen Erickson, Toni Christianson, Brandi Full and Jessica Verhelst

Club Members: Hayden Antony, Madison Antony, Adri Christianson, Charli Christianson, McCoy Christianson, Rylee Christianson, Tatum Christianson, Ella DePestel, Reghan DePestel, Eden DeVos, Elaira DeVos, Addison Full, Brooklyn Full, Kinzie Full, Tyler Full, Sophia Full, Eva Henningsgaard, Norah Larson, Odin Larson, Alyssa Mathews, Chase Mathews, Hannah Mathews, Nora Mathews, Olivia Slocum, Amya Verhelst and Kinsley Verhelst

2024-2025 Membership, Special Interest Clubs - Shooting Sports: Archery 4-H Club

Meeting Location: Canby Sportsmans Club

Club Volunteers: Justin Miller, Levi Bollerud and Michelle Brunsvig

Club Members: Aria Bollerud, Charlotte Boulton, Charlotte Brunsvig, Savannah Brunsvig, Victoria Brunsvig, Ian Crowley, Caleb Dwyer, James Dwyer, Mason Dwyer, Daniel Ferguson, Edward Ferguson, Aubrey Gehrking, Bentley Grengs, Archer Grengs, Emerson Haugen, Henry Knutson, Lenny Kockelman, Kaydee Miller, Sophie Miller, Jaylen Norbistrath, Elijah Petersen, Lexi Peterson, Damien Schrunk, Ida Schrunk, Caleb Van Hyfte, Aaden VanDerostyne, Abigail Wilson, Dylan Wilson, Tyson Wilson, Layla Wilson and James Winters

Other community 4-H club members may also participate in 4-H special interest opportunities

- Club Volunteers are screened adult volunteers with the 4-H program. 4-H clubs have many parents and other volunteers as well that help the club to thrive!

- Meeting locations listed are the typical location and are subject to change. Please contact the Yellow Medicine Extension office at 320-669-4471 or <aawebb@umn.edu> to find out the dates, times, and locations of upcoming club meetings.

- YM Extension Staff truly apologizes for any errors as well as any names that were unintentionally left off of this list.

Having fun with Yellow Medicine County 4-H Programs

submitted by Alicia Webb

We're celebrating 4-H in October! Yellow Medicine County 4-H prepares our youth to be "Beyond Ready" for life, work and the future through hands-on learning experiences. Across our county, 4-H engages youth through local community clubs, after-school programs and partnerships with local organizations.

Yellow Medicine County 4-H is focused on building life skills to establish a foundation of responsibility, teamwork, communication and leadership. These core competencies will empower youth to take care of themselves and others, live independently, thrive in their

careers and develop passions around skills and hobbies.

We began the 4-H year in October 2024 with one of our signature Yellow Medicine 4-H programs, our babysitting clinic called 'Super Sitters.' This year, our Super Sitters program was held in both Canby and Yellow Medicine East schools and offered to youth in grades fifth and sixth.

This program focuses on teaching youth how to keep the children they are caring for safe and entertained through learning about ages and stages of development and developing ideas for educational and engaging activities with children. However, the skills taught - in fire



OUR 4-H CANBY CLOVERBUD after-school program made care baskets for the residents at Sylvan Place.

safety, CPR and first aid, as well as budgeting and entrepreneurship skills - go well beyond what's needed for taking care of children and are investments into the character of the youths in the program. We were thankful to have community professionals share their expertise with our youth, including volunteer firefighters, EMTs, and public health nurses. Additionally, 4-H youth at the YME School District served their community by offering cost-free child care services to parents during their fall conferences.

Youth in the babysitting programs also reflected on what they learned throughout the eight-week course with community experts and volunteers. Thanks to these

individuals, our youth had the opportunity to practice their communication skills by sharing what they learned during the course and answering questions. The babysitting programs helped participating youth build their self-confidence. As one participant shared, they learned "[they] can do hard things and be brave so [they] can be in charge of others."

Another program that focused on skills youth need for life beyond school was the "Whisk It Up" baking program. Learning kitchen safety, how to read a recipe, differentiating between measuring units, prepping a variety of fruits and vegetables, making healthy food choices, as well as food safety, are all very important

to leading a healthy and independent life.

Our YMC 4-H program went a step beyond these skills by also touching on consumer decision making - what, if any, is the quality difference between a name brand food and a generic/store brand food, and does it make a difference in the final product. We learned about how much money could be saved by using generic/store brand products, all while maintaining quality outcomes. Youth also learned varying cooking and baking techniques, such as cutting in flour, folding in cream, and separating an egg yolk from its white. Baking encourages adaptability, as we worked to incorporate substitutions for common al-

lergens, and used different leavening agents to see the result on the final product.

Our six 4-H clubs across Yellow Medicine County, including three in Canby and one each in Clarkfield, Porter and Wood Lake, kicked off the new year by electing their youth officers. The newly elected officers worked with their clubs to plan meeting activities for the entire year!

4-H clubs are led by dedicated volunteers and parents, who collaborate with youth to choose their clubs' priorities for the year. Clubs focus on education, service learning, youth leadership and fun!

Fun with 4-H continued on page 9



LUNA OLSON AND CARSON SQUIRES work together in their pancake experiment recipes.

2025 Minnesota State Fair 4-H General Livestock Release

submitted by University of Minnesota Extension

Minnesota 4-H'ers from 87 counties arrived with over 2,671 animals at the 2025 "Great Minnesota Get-Together" for this year's 4-H livestock encampment, which was held Wednesday, Aug. 20, through Sunday, Aug. 24. The number of livestock exhibits over the week-end included:

- Beef: 584 exhibits
- Dairy: 425 exhibits
- Goats: 339 exhibits
- Poultry: 275 exhibits
- Rabbits: 277 exhibits
- Sheep: 320 exhibits
- Swine: 377 exhibits
- Llama: 74 exhibits

Minnesota 4-H'ers prepare for this event all summer long. Members consider several components when deciding to exhibit livestock, including selection and preparation of the animal; educational programming; scholarship applications; and participation at county fairs.

Education is integral in the "learn by doing" philosophy of 4-H. As part of the educational component, Minnesota 4-H requires every youth participating in the livestock encampment to participate in a livestock interview. Examples of the interview process include an online knowledge test, skill-a-thons, and personal interviews about their project area.

Along with interviews, all 4-H youth participating in livestock programming are required to complete the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Training. Through this certification, youth are educated on biosecurity, educating the public on the role of livestock, and caring for their animal's welfare.

Many 4-H participants also have the opportunity to finance their education as recipients of scholarships. This year the Dairy Project will continue with the 17th annual Dairy Showcase and award special recognition and scholarships to 25 outstanding participants based on their dairy industry knowledge, 4-H dairy project involvement, along with state fair dairy show results. The annual 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction sponsored by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association (MLBA) presented 42 scholarships to youth with well-rounded leadership, community service and livestock involvement throughout their 4-H career.

4-H not only produces purple ribbon animals, but more importantly, is focused on producing purple ribbon kids! Congratulations to all the youth that participated in the Livestock Encampment at the 2025 Minnesota State Fair.

Yellow Medicine County 4-H'ers earning a trip to the Minnesota 4-H State Fair with livestock are:

- **Ella DePestel** - Meat Breeding Doe: Livestock Interview Finalist
- **Reghan DePestel** - Meat Breeding Doe
- **Gracie Mamer** - Breeding Heifer: third placing, Beef Commercial Spring Calf
- **Triston Mamer** - Prospect Calf: Purple Ribbon, Reserve Champion Prospect Steer Calf, Reserve

Grand Champion Prospect Market Calf

- **Hayden Noyes** - Dairy Goat: Blue Ribbon in Showmanship, fourth placing, Alpine Dry Yearling Doe
- **Mak Pesek** - Breeding Gilt: second placing, Registered Duroc February Gilt
- **Mya Pesek** - Market Beef: Purple Ribbon, fourth placing Chianina Registered Steer
- **Braxton Peterson** - Breeding Ewe: Livestock interview finalist, Purple Ribbon, first placing Registered Southdown Yearling Ewe
- **Jack Rangaard** - Prospect Calf: fifth placing prospect steer calf
- **Kendra Rangaard** - Breeding Heifer: Livestock interview finalist
- **Ty Rangaard** - Breeding Heifer: Purple ribbon, first placing Commercial junior yearling
- **Carter Schrunk** - Market Beef: third placing cross-bred steer
- **Kaden Wintheiser** - Dairy Goat: first placing, Champion LaMancha Junior Doe
- **Kalie Wintheiser** - Dairy Goat: fourth placing, senior doe kid

Each of these Yellow Medicine County 4-H'ers earned a BLUE RIBBON for their projects brought to the State Fair General Encampment:

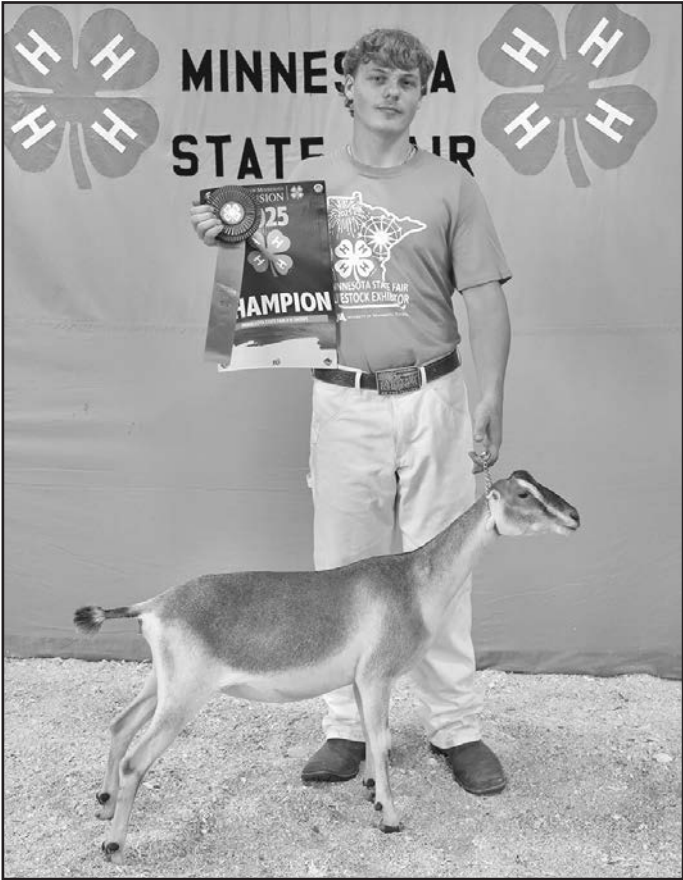
- **Quintin Hansen** - Industrial Technology
- **Charlotte Hansen** - Self Determined
- **Brett Massmann** - Industrial Technology
- **Prairie Runners 4-H Club** - Banner

Minnesota 4-H'ers also have the opportunity to showcase their learning virtually. Their projects were in the 4-H building up at the state fairgrounds, and the 4-H'ers get to visit with a judge over Zoom. Each of these projects also earned a BLUE RIBBON.

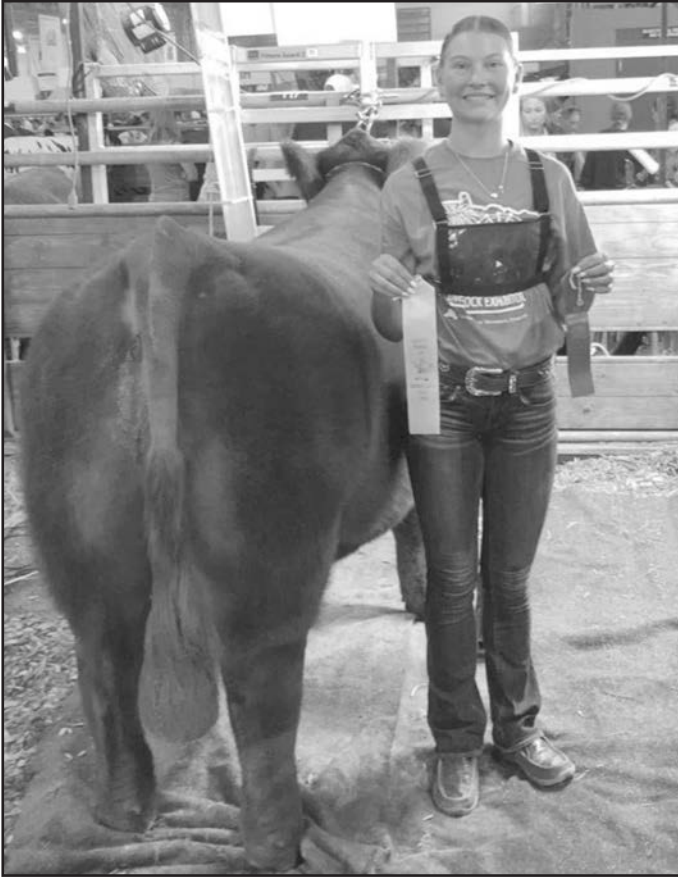
- **Addison Full** - Elements of Photography
- **Brooklyn Full** - Fine Arts - Painting
- **Chevelle Hoffman** - Team Presentation: Community Impact Recognition
- **Cheyenne Hoffman** - Team Presentation: Community Impact Recognition
- **Emma Janssen** - Veterinary Science



YM 4-H STATE FAIR BEEF EXHIBITORS (L-R) Carter Schrunk, Jack Rangaard, Gracie Mamer, Ty Rangaard, Triston Mamer, Kendra Rangaard and Mya Pesek.



DAIRY GOAT CHAMPION LAMANCHA JUNIOR DOE - Kaden Wintheiser.



MYA PESEK with her Purple ribbon and fourth place Chianina Market Beef Steer.



SHEEP SHOW CHAMPION SOUTHDOWN YEARLING - Braxton Petersen



JACK RANGAARD with his 4-H prospect steer calf project.



KALIE WINTHEISER walks her goat during the 4-H Minnesota State Fair.



TRISTON MAMER with his 4-H Reserve Grand Champion Prospect Calf.



STATE FAIR GOAT EXHIBITORS (L-R) Kaden Wintheiser, Reghan DePestel, Ella DePestel, Hayden Noyes, Kalie Wintheiser.



CHAMPION LAMANCHA JR. DOE - Ella DePestel, Reghan DePestel, Kaden Wintheiser, Kalie Wintheiser Hayden Noyes.

State Horse Show

Simon’s Arena | Cannon Falls | September 5-9 and Stearns County Fairgrounds | Sauk Center | September 13-14

submitted by Alicia Webb
4-H youth from Yellow Medicine County participated in the Minnesota 4-H State Horse show Sept. 5-9, and Sept. 13-14. This year, over 645 youth from across the state participated in the annual event. 4-H’ers demonstrate their skills and knowledge in hippology (showing knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry), horse judging (study of an animal, measuring it against an accepted ideal), horse training and achievement, speech and demonstrations about interest in horses or the horse industry, miniature horse and drill team skills, along with all of the competitive horse riding events. Youth who participate in the Minnesota 4-H Horse Project learn about show and trail; test their horse knowledge at quiz bowls or on judging teams, and study horse science. Youth may participate if they own or lease a horse. There are even options for youth who are in-

terested in horses but don’t have access to one in their community. “Through the Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show, youth build communication skills, gain deeper learning and interest in horses, and build relationships with caring adults,” said Renee Kostick, extension educator who manages the 4-H horse project in Minnesota. “These experiences contribute to their success in school, community, and their futures.” Charli Christianson performed in showmanship, Western pleasure and English hunt seat pleasure. She had received fifth place in the hunt seat on Brandi. Addison Full performed in barrels, jumping figure 8, keyhole, pole weaving, English hunt seat equitation, Western pleasure, Western horsemanship, and trail. She had 12th in jumping figure eight on Chief. Eva Henningsgaard performed in trail, Western pleasure, Western horsemanship, showmanship,



4-H STATE HORSE SHOW YMC REPRESENTATIVES included (above left, L-R) Hannah Mathews, Ella DePestel, Addison Full, Charli Christianson and Amya Verhelst; (above right) Christianson, Full, DePestel and Eva Henningsgaard.

English hunt seat equitation, and hunt seat pleasure. She had received 3rd place in English hunt seat pleasure. Hannah Mathews per-

formed in barrels, keyhole, jumping figure 8 and pole weaving. Ella DePestel performed in barrels, jumping figure 8,



pole weaving and showmanship. Amya Verhelst performed in barrels, jumping figure 8, pole weaving and keyhole.

Kalie Wintheiser exhibited in the horse-related project.

Fun with 4-H continued from page 7

c includes hands-on learning from each other, as well as community members and professionals, and service learning involves connecting with our local communities to provide needed support. Youth leadership means, the youth themselves choose what they want to learn and how they want to serve their community. Of course, it wouldn’t be a club meeting without some fun, which often encourages youth to step outside their comfort zones to try something new! This past year, our 4-H clubs engaged in each of these areas. Youth spent time updating and beautifying local parks and streets, visiting assisted living for inter-generational connection and helping support local food shelves. Our 4-H’ers also engaged with livestock and equine clinicians to grow their skills and learn from experienced riders. Youth also toured local businesses, such as movie theaters, to learn more about the business. One 4-H’er shared that the most important thing they learned in Yellow Medicine 4-H this year was “how to work as a team and be a better leader.” Survey results show that 100% of youth feel like they belong in the 4-H program, and 93% of youth grew in their confidence through 4-H this year. Yellow Medicine Co. 4-H also has four very important partnership clubs, which include Clarkfield Summer Rec. 4-H Club, The Canby Connection, Yellow Medicine East After-School Program Club, and the Upward Bound 4-H Club. 4-H Summer Rec in Clarkfield creates multiple options for youth to grow, play and learn throughout the summer. We are fortunate to have staff and volunteers who share a wide variety of passions and skills with youth in the Clarkfield area. The Clarkfield Summer Rec 4-H Club, through its partnerships with the Lyon County Environmental Department, WildRoots and local Clarkfield businesses, offer youth the opportunity to connect

with specific skills and interests, including sewing, agriculture, and art, as well as T-ball and live pitch. A Clarkfield Summer Rec 4-H Club youth member shared, “I learned that it is okay to try new things even if you are scared.” Parents were also appreciative of the many different opportunities available through 4-H summer rec. “I like that there are a variety of classes for them to choose from – the kids loved going every day!” The Canby Connection partnership engages youth in agriculture, art and the outdoors. Each of these program areas focuses on expanding a youth’s depth of experience, while teaching core competencies such as tenacity and patience, building self-confidence and encouraging creativity. The Upward Bound 4-H Club designed experiences for youth to engage in career exploration, financial literacy and community service. The group brainstormed, developed, and executed a program that showcased a nurse anesthetist and a pilot, two professions that were of interest to the students. The youth learned about the education qualifications needed for these careers, what a typical day in life might look like, as well as important classes to explore in high school. The team of students also co-facilitated a financial literacy program at SMSU for over 50 students, called Reality Check. This program assigned students a career, salary and a family. The students then visited a variety of booths representing child care, groceries, transportation and other important expenses they will have to navigate as they move forward through life. This event was eye-opening for the youth who participated, with one youth sharing that “It made me realize how important it is to be more mindful with spending,” and that [the cost of] “buying groceries for five people shocked me.” The Upward Bound 4-H Club wrote a grant to be able

to distribute donated winter gear to the Bert Raney Elementary youth. If you have winter gear to donate, please check out the boxes in Granite Falls businesses. During these programs, the Upward Bound 4-H Club youth practiced their public speaking and interacted with business leaders to create change in their communities. YMC 4-H also connects youth to caring adults through a shared interest or passion. These programs encourage youth to practice skills with their hands and develop perseverance, problem-solving and focus. This past 4-H year, A New Leaf Floral once again partnered to bring Caring Roses week to youth in Canby schools. Through this partnership, youth learn the art and skill of arranging a dozen roses. “Last year I gave mine to my grandma, so I’m going to give them to my mom this time,” shared one youth. YMC 4-H continues to offer great learning opportunities, thanks to dedicated volunteers: • Youth learned about service to the community by supporting the Prairie 5 Food Shelf. • With guidance from Renee Frazeur, youth developed quilting skills by creating quilted tote bags. • The popular 4-H Summer Archery Club provided skill development for both new and experienced youth archers through weekly sessions; thanks to the dedication of volunteer instructors Justin Miller, Levi Bollerud and Michelle Brunsvig. Involvement in 4-H encourages youth to engage with their new and existing areas of interest, as well as develop and deepen their communication, leadership, and adaptability muscles.

Through our hands-on 4-H programs, the goal is to have youth who understand the importance of serving their communities, have practice in taking leadership roles and are willing to create positive changes for the world around them. Yellow Medicine County 4-H is so grateful for the many caring and supportive adult volunteers who support our youth with safe learning environments. YMC 4-H reached 20% of youth aged 5-18 in Yellow Medicine County this past year, and we can’t wait to see who will be a part of the club next! If you want to get involved with Yellow Medicine County 4-H as a youth or volunteer, we would love to have you follow us on Facebook as well as contact the YMC Extension Office at 320-669-4471 or Alicia Webb, local extension educator.



KADEN WINTHEISER, 4-H CAMP COUNSELOR, poses with the 4-H campers Gretchen Hansen and Lexi Peterson.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE 4-H QUILTING CLASS showcase their handbags alongside their instructor Renee Frazeur.



EMT Avery Lokken teaches Hayden Antony, 4-H Super Sitter, how to deliver back blows to a choking baby.



CHARLOTTE BRUNSVIG puts the finishing touches on her lattice top apple pie during 4-H baking.



BROOKE AND TYLER SYRING demonstrate how to find the tattoo in the ear of their calf.

4-H at the Yellow Medicine County Fair



EMMA JANSSEN holds the banner for Hadley Noyes' award.



ALEX HOFFMAN properly shows his rabbit during showmanship judging.



MYA PESEK earned top honors at the Senior Premier Showmanship competition, where she displayed her skill and knowledge in showing every animal.



4-H HORSE CLUB MEMBER Emma Janssen shares her needle arts project with judge at the county fair.



HAYDEN NOYES shares his blue ribbon zucchini with the 4-H judge.



MAXTEN HOFFMAN shows a calf for his 4-H project.



CAYLEIGH BORDEWYK drives her swine project around the arena.



SAVANNAH BRUNSVIG (above) and Savannah Seidell (below) show their calves with 4-H.



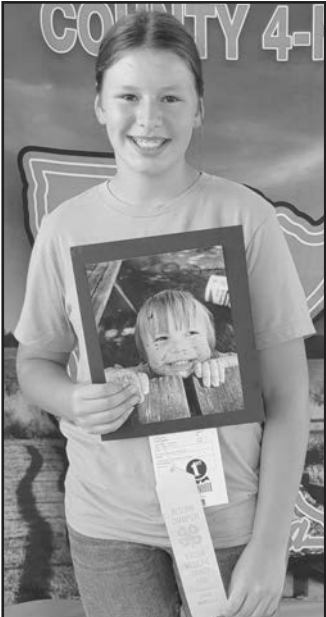
TRISTAN FEHL shows his knowledge and skill with his poultry project



IDA SCHRUNK created jam for her first year in 4-H.



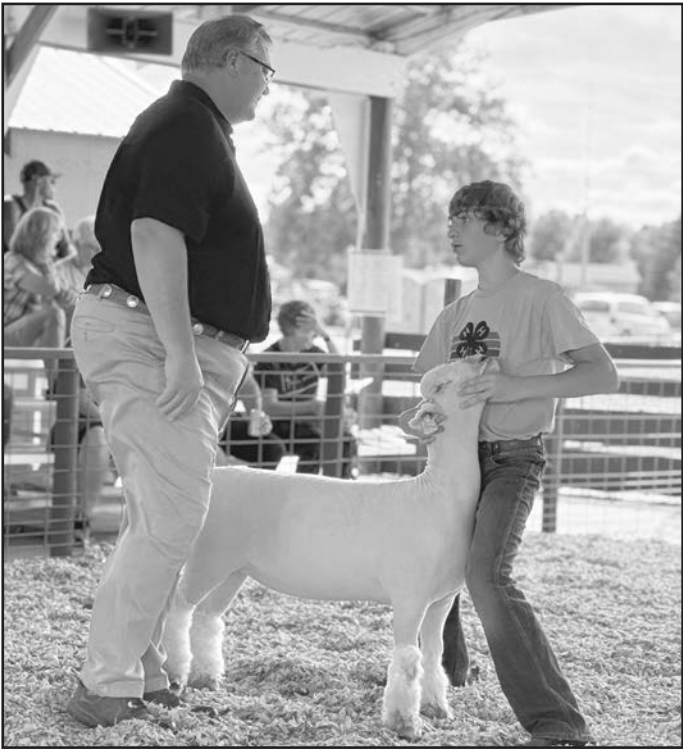
AADEN VANDEROSTYNE created his 4-H project in the engineering design project area.



SOPHIA FULL displays her award winning photo during her first year of 4-H.



THE BEEF JUDGE WORKS closely with Jaylen Norbistrath during the junior showmanship competition.



BRAXTON PETERSEN visits with the sheep judge.

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