

The Perkins County 4-H Council has had a great start to 2012. On Jan. 8 the council held a 4-H Kickoff. The recruitment event attracted several new members to the Perkins County Fairgrounds. 4-H members were able to sign up for 2012 4-H projects, enjoy snacks, and enter in to a drawing for various prizes.

Following the kickoff, new and returning council members met for an organizational meeting to elect new officers and plan for the coming year. Members and offices are as follows: Kathy Curtis, president; Robin Cornelius, vice president; Tara Nodlinski, treasurer; Julie Burge, secretary; Darrin Robinson, new member; Ben Pelster, new member.

The youth representatives serving on the council include: freshman Mariah Curtis, new member; sophomore Rebecca Cornelius, historian; and senior Seth Burge, reporter. There is still another youth position available to any interested high school student in 4-H. Youth that are interested can contact the Extension Office for an application.

A workshop open to elementary age children was held at the PerkinsCounty Fairgrounds on March 12. The workshop focused on wind energy.

Extension educator Debbie Kuenning educated the six participants with “Wired for Wind” kits donated to KAP Extension through ONEOK Energy. These kits supplied materials to make simple wind turbines. The kids were able to design their own propeller-like blades with their vision of a fast rotor. Luckily, Nebraska weather provided them with sufficient wind to test out the turbines.

The Perkins County 4-H Council has also been working on projects to enhance the appearance and atmosphere of the fairgrounds for fair week. In summer 2011, the council dedicated several hours of labor into painting the walls and shelves in the in the 4-H exhibit building. With funds provided by the Perkins County Fair Board, the exhibit building was colorful, comfortable, and ready for fair week 2011.

The council also purchased a large 4-H emblem flag to fly during fair time this year.

Another large project the council is currently working on is new award signs to hang in the livestock barn during fair. After the shows are completed, these signs will hang above the animals to recognize the Grand and Reserve Champion in each species as well as the Rate of Gain Award for beef.

The council would like to thank the Perkins County Fair Board for financial assistance in these projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Burge

Perkins County

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