Starry Nights 4-H Club Report

Submitted by Emma Pearson and Madison Gay

Starry Nights 4-H has been busy with many events and projects!

Winter Horse Camp was an event some of our younger members went to. There were lots of activities and games. One fun activity was making sock puppet horses! These horses turned out great and were a lot of fun to make. We also made up songs to sing about horses. Our club’s song was dedicated to a horse at the barn named Fox who is always dirty and not a lot of fun to clean. For the educational part of Winter Horse Camp we went to different stations. We learned about different kinds of horses, types of grain, and lots of horse care tips. In all, this overnight stay at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds was awesome!

Quiz Bowl has been a fun event that many of our members have participated in recently. To start off the Quiz Bowl season there were some practices our club went to. There were a series of county quiz bowl events that were fun and educational. The county events were all practice for the state contest, which was March 10th. State quiz bowl was exciting and suspenseful. Everyone did very well and we can home with some nice ribbons! For the 8 and 9 year old division, Carly Jenkins came in 2nd, with Morgan Mackres in 4th. In the 10 and 11 age category, Connor Jenny came in 5th, and Julia Neeld received 7th place. For the 12 to 13 division, Emma Pearson came in 2nd, with Alexis Walker in 5th. And for the Senior division ages 14 to 18, Chantel Charlebois came in 3rd, and Kaelyn Jenny received a 7th place ribbon. Kira Clokey, Brigette Charlebois, and Hannah Lang also participated. In addition, Hannah Lang’s cake raised $46.50 for the Chittenden County 4-H Foundation!

At our February meeting, we did a community service project. The club made pet toys to donate to Lucy’s House of Pets. Lucy’s House of Pets is an organization that provides toys to pet owners that cannot afford toys for their pets. In this project we made three different types of toys; catnip mice, tennis ball socks, and tug ropes. This was a great project and we learned how to make simple toys that our pets will love!

Horse shows are just around the corner so to prepare we had a project meeting for the people who are planning on doing an equine record. We learned what to record, where to record it, and the importance of keeping up to date on your records!

There have been a lot of 4-H events recently, and a lot more are coming up. We hope to see all of our members at these fun activities!

See the next page for photos!
Starry Nights Members at Quiz Bowl

Starry Nights 4-H Club Community Service Effort
Since the start of the 4-H year our club has been busy. At our first meeting we elected our officers. In September Brooke Aicher, Nathan Fefee, and Elsa Bock traveled to Eastern States to exhibit their cows. Nathan won his fitting and showmanship class, Elsa got reserve junior and senior champion in her confirmation class, and Brooke placed second in her confirmation class. Our entire club received recognition at achievement night for keeping up with our record books. It is a tradition for our club to participate in the town’s Halloween parade, so this year our float was arctic themed, and we all dressed up as penguins, polar bears, and arctic explorers. In November, 3 club members talked to the group about doing two additional projects in addition to our dairy project. This year our club is going to try and do out Dairy project, a sugaring, and a vet science project. In the middle of November four members went to the State Dairy Challenge event and we all did very well. In early December Courtney Banach went to the Teen Leadership Weekend at the Hampton Inn. Around Valentine’s Day we did a Yankee gift swap of some goodies. A few members of our club are participating in the Hoard’s Dairyman judging competition right now.

We had our annual bake sale and sleep over at the end of January. Our bale sale made us about $225.00 in profit to go toward show supplies this year. After the bake sale we all went back to the farm to have a sleepover. We talked about the fairs this year and what we would like to see happen. After dinner we each got to decorate gingerbread houses. It is a tradition ever year that we have a slide show of the previous year’s fun. It was amazing to see and so well put together it brought back some fun memories to everyone.

Our sugaring project is under way right now. A couple of us went out to the sugar bush in the middle of February to help the head sugar maker repair some lines. He put us in charge of tapping about 60 trees. Since then a few members have been out to help. We are planning on doing some cooking with maple syrup and having one of our leaders teach us about sugaring.

We have just begun our Vet Science project. At one of our meetings in February we had State 4-H Educator Wendy Sorrell come to talk to us. She came prepared to talk about injections and diseases. We learned about the different kinds that could be given, how they are given, what they do, and how to give one. Wendy brought along some bananas and oranges and a few needles and we got to practice giving injections to the fruit. Wendy also came with some pictures of different kinds of diseases and we had the chance to figure out what each one was. Before the night was over we read off a few fun cow facts. Once we get back out to the barn we are planning on having our vet come to talk to us more.

Right now is a busy time of year for our club. We are having our big club fundraiser March 24 and 25 at Shelburne Farms. This fundraiser is our pancake breakfast, and all proceeds go to help with show supplies and expense fees for the year. This takes almost a month of planning to make it all come together. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME. Half of our club is preparing to go to Cowtown in the beginning of April. It is hard to believe but in about a month we will start picking our animals, and getting ready for the fairs!

See the next few pages for photos!!
Elsa, Nathan, and Brooke at ESE

Club Bake Sale
Practicing injections

Ben, Courtney, and Nathan sugaring.
Flying Hooves has been very busy this year, and especially over the last few months. In December our club did some fundraising for four of our members who are planning on attending Citizenship Washington Focus this coming summer. We also sponsored three families this year for Christmas, like we do every year. All members brought in food and gifts for the under-privileged families, and we had a present-wrapping party at Patty Hart's house which was great for bonding for our club, while we were working to help our community. We also had seven members attend Teen Weekend, which they reported as having been a lot of fun. In January some of the younger members in our club went to Winter Horse Camp. And a few of the older girls went to help out the first night of camp. All of the girls who went, whether they were going for the first time, or if they had attended camp when they were little and now were helping out with it, really enjoyed going. During this month we also had several project meetings and broke up into a few main groups, Horse, Photography, Sports and Fitness, Community Service, and a new one for our club: Cooking. All of the project groups have been working very hard on plans for Regional Day, with the hopes that every person our club will have at least one project to submit. In February our club studied for quiz bowl and had a few practice meetings so everyone could be warmed up for county quiz bowl. We also continued to work in our project areas, and some members started their projects for Regional Day. This March our club's studying paid off at the State Quiz Bowl Competition. We did very well with members from all age groups in Flying Hooves placing and we had a lot of members attend and just have fun; for Juniors 8-9 Eva Joly placed 1st, and Grace Parks(first year 4-her) placed 5th, Juniors 10-11 Shea Tomlison placed 4th, Annike Cooper(first year 4-Her) came in 11th, and Hannah Lange(also a first timer) came in 12th, Juniors 12-13 Kerrigan Lessor placed 8th, and Mariah Hanson placed 9th, for Senoirs Jenn Dickeson placed 4th, and Summer Colley placed 6th, and in the Novice Seniors division Caraline Flaherty placed 1st with a total of 15 questions! Overall all Flying Hooves has had a great few months and we hope to continue that trend through to the end of the year.