

South Regional Email Blast

sent Nov 28, 2015

This email is being sent to: 2015-2016 South 4-H Region club leader contacts (or any 2014-2015 leaders if new registration is not yet completed or approved), 2015-2016 key leaders, 2014-2015 district and regional council representatives and committee chairpersons. Plus a few others who have requested a copy. It will also be available on the South pages on the 4-H website www.4h.ab.ca soon. Check this site out for copies of all Regional Council meeting minutes, various committee meeting minutes, application forms for South region events and everything you want to know about 4-H!

I have updated this recipient list and will continue to do so, during the registration of clubs, and change of some club leader contacts. IF your club is in transition and you are an outgoing leader club contact, **please forward** this email to the new leader, and let me know of the transition that is happening. It is a work in progress to ensure that the email list is most up to date. ***If you are still getting emails and wish to be removed, please drop me a note and I will endeavor to have you removed immediately but please remember that you may not be on the club leader list, but may still show on your District Council list until elections have replaced you and I have been made aware of the executive change. If you know that you were in more than one category, please indicate so that I can get that corrected and have you removed.***

PLEASE SHARE THIS AND ALL EMAIL BLASTS WITH YOUR CLUB MEMBERS, LEADERS and families and anyone else you think may be interested in this information. Note that there are several attachments, that may be of interest to different people within our region. I hope that you can find at least one thing that is of interest and value to you through this email blast. THANK YOU to those who take the time to read and share these email blasts. Please also check out the 4-H website calendar for application forms and information, speak with Club and Key Leaders, your council representatives, or feel free to call or email me. Together we can accomplish great things!

It is December! Time for reflection on **memorable times** over the past year inside and outside of 4-H, **sharing** of a few more **smiles**, and hot chocolate-filled **mellow moments** around a crackling fireplace (in person or on multiple tv channels). **HO, HO, HO!!!!**

1. The next **Southern 4-H Regional Council meeting** will take place on **Saturday, December 5th**, at the Lethbridge Research Station starting at 10 am. Everyone is welcome to attend but please ensure that your district is represented by at least ONE voting representative, who can bring information back to your district council as well. The Council coordinates and organizes various regional events annually for members, and leaders and these meetings (4 per year) help to ensure that all of the 10 South district councils have opportunity for involvement, input and information. If you are coming, please contact Ginny, so that enough lunch is on-hand (it will be yummy!)
2. Please find attached, a copy of the **Government of Alberta 4-H Branch Update** for November 2015. This provides a few highlights of 4-H Branch activities, from March 2015 to early/mid November 2015 – basically some short notes on just some of what 4-H specialists and other staff have been up to over the past while.

Since the time of release of that report, there is another 4-H Branch Staffing update to share with you. Many club leaders and members, key leaders, district and regional council people will know Andrea Church, 4-H Specialist for the Calgary Region, who also works with the 4-H Provincial Sheep Show and was the Southern 4-H Regional Specialist until 2013. She will be leaving her position as of December 14th for the position of Beef Extension Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, still working in the Airdrie office. She will keep her ties with 4-H as a volunteer and a parent so chances are still good that your paths will cross somewhere!

3. **Farming Smarter Conference and 4-H Auction** – takes place in Lethbridge at the Coast Hotel on **December 8th and 9th**.

Best wishes to **our 4-H speakers** during this agricultural conference! Some of the top speakers from the 2015 Southern 4-H Regional Communications competition will be presenting their speech or presentation in front of about 250 to 300 conference attendees. Not only will they be representing our South 4-H Region, they will be demonstrating some of the great speaking abilities that 4-H is so very proud of helping our youth to develop, and showing that our future in agriculture includes many talented and dedicated young 4-H members. This year's speakers include Calvin Holthe (South region ambassador as our 4-H contingent M.C.) from Lethbridge and Taber districts, Alexandra Russell - Pincher Creek District, Clayton Lehr – Cactus Country District, Madisen Groves - Lethbridge District, Carmen White - Willow Creek District, Paige Reimer - Forty Mile District and Brittney Chomistek - Cactus Country District.

The auction at the conference is a major fundraiser for activities and events that happen right here in our Southern 4-H Region! Attached is a list of the items gathered so far – Clancy has been VERY busy! There are **close to 90 different items, with a total value of over \$10, 000**, so there should be something that might appeal to you! The list is still growing! Please have a look and see if you wish to submit a bid on anything – perhaps for some early Christmas shopping! Clancy or I would be pleased to watch the bid sheets and bid up to whatever amount you indicate your top price limit to be, and we will then let you know so that you may submit payment to the Southern 4-H Regional Council. Remember that **All money raised at the auction goes towards events and programs right here in our South 4-H Region!** Call or email Clancy or me soon! Clancy – 403- 738-4497 or clareneholthe@yahoo.ca

4. **4-H Alberta 2017 100th Anniversary Name the Signature Event Contest**

One of the two signature events scheduled to help celebrate 4-H Alberta's 100th Anniversary is going to be held the August 2017 long weekend in Olds!

This **celebration weekend**, which will include project show cases, reunion corners, food, fun, and friends **NEEDS a name**. The name selected by the committee will win the person who submitted it an iPad! Please submit your idea(s) to celebrate@4hab100.ca as soon as you can, but if possible prior to **December 11th**.

BALE TARPS FOR SALE! There are a few small tarps in the Lethbridge 4-H office, if any district council or individuals wish to purchase.

Here's part of the letter about them....

By now you're well aware that 4-H Alberta will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2017. The celebrations will officially begin during the 2016-2017 4-H year, which is now just one year away.

There will be many ways to participate in the celebrations provincially as well as at regional, district and club levels. One of our first initiatives to spread awareness of the anniversary is the centennial bale tarps fundraiser. We need your help to get as many tarps around the province as possible.

To help mark the history of 100 years of 4-H in Alberta, we would like to request that each region purchase a tarp and identify a location of historical importance at which it can be placed. It is our hope that you will discuss this at your next regional meeting and then let our committee know where you have decided to place the tarp. Please note that we intend on placing a tarp in Olds to

mark the birthplace of 4-H in Alberta, so the Calgary Region should come up with a different location.

There are two sizes of tarps, and an FAQ is included with this letter. Payment instructions are also included with the order form and can be found on the 4-H website under the "what's new" section. <https://4h.ab.ca/About/Whats-New.html#CentennialBaleTarp>

We appreciate your participation in this initiative. The centennial is a wonderful opportunity to increase awareness of the 4-H program overall. Let's paint Alberta 4-H green for 2017!

4-H'ers are also encouraged to help with tarp sales by spreading the word to your communities and approaching past members or local 4-H supporters with the opportunity to show their 4-H Pride by buying and displaying a tarp. Of course, current members, clubs and districts are also encouraged to purchase tarps for display. In fact, we challenge you to help us sell the tarps as there will be a prize for the district with the most tarps! Stay tuned for more on that.

All proceeds from tarp sales go towards the 100th anniversary celebrations.

Thank you for your help. Please reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sinclair
Chair, Marketing and Communications Committee
4-H Alberta Centennial Celebrations
Phone: 403-804-6931
Email: sinclair.kellyr@gmail.com

5. **It's Time to Once Again Find Your 4-H Wings!**



Last year, over 2,000 4-H members from across Canada learned all about their winged friends thanks to Find Your 4-H Wings. Thanks to the generous support of TransCanada, 4-H'ers learned about biodiversity and got active spotting birds in their communities.

This year the focus is on bird habitats! This is an awesome opportunity for 4-H'ers to get actively engaged in the outdoors, make healthy choices and contribute to their community.

Participating clubs will receive a Bird House Kit containing:

- Bird house building kits for every club member
- Milk paints and varnish
- Paint brushes and other assembly materials
- A guide to help identify species nesting in bird houses

Didn't participate in the first year of *Find Your 4-H Wings*? Not to worry! Registrations are open to all clubs. Bird House Kits are limited, so make sure you register your club today!

For more information please visit www.4-h-canada.ca/findyour4hwings.

- **Questions?** please contact [Funds Development](#) at 4-H Canada.

- The November **4-H Foundation report** is attached for your information – lots of good stuff in here, so have a look!
- Congratulations to all of the competitors who took in the **South 4-H Region’s first-ever Consumer Decision Making** workshop and competition in Vauxhall on Saturday, and many thanks to all of the people who volunteered to help in various roles! Members from 5 different districts took part and responses to the event were positive from the attendees. Following in the footsteps of other 4-H regions already offering this event also contributes to the opportunity to develop a Provincial CSM competition for senior members, so that 4-H Alberta may be able to send some awesome teams, similar to our Judging teams, to other competitions – like Denver Colorado! Stay tuned!

	first	last	club	
1	Lindsey	Brower	Shortgrass Beef	Jr
2	Kourtney	Serfas	Wild & Wooly	Jr
3	Dorothy	Harris	TNT Multi	Jr
4	Brooklynn	Tolley	Raymond Beef	Jr
5	Alysha	Mahlhaff	Hays Multi	Jr

1	Jessie	Ferguson	Hays Beef	Int
2	Mary	Harris	TNT Multi	Int
3	Lexie	Hornford	TNT Multi	Int
4	Emma	Vissers	Retlaw Prairie	Int
5	Morgan	Brower	Shortgrass Beef	Int

1	Candace	Halvorson	Shortgrass Beef	Sr	
2	Allyson	Carroll	Kreative Kidz	Sr	
3	Odessa	Kopp	Cow Country	Sr	
4	Peter	Waeckerlin	Retlaw Prairie	Sr	tie broke by reason score
5	Randi	Papworth	Kreative Kidz	Sr	tie broke by reason score

- Are you a senior 4-H member and like Skiing?** Senior members from South region are welcome to attend the upcoming West Central Alumni Senior Ski Trip. See that attached poster. Questions – contact Kirsten H. Jensen 403-877-6533
- Snowfest 2016** – watch for further information to be coming before Christmas.
- Communications 2016.** This is a REALLY big part of everyone’s life in 4-H every year – at the club, district and regional levels!
Again as a heads up – **2016 Regional Communications will take place on March 19th, 2016.** The location is just being finalized but will be in either Brooks or Medicine Hat. This year’s districts that are responsible for looking after the event are, with contact people (or district key leader) noted as:
 - Regional Communications
 - Host District – Taber - contact Sandra DeGroot
 - Junior Public Speaking – Newell

Intermediate Public Speaking – Cactus Country
 Senior Public Speaking – 40 Mile
 Presentations – Warner contact Shari Wehlage

Other districts (responsible for notifying the regional committee the advancing speaker information following their district competitions)

Pincher Creek – Myra Hammond

Willow Creek –

Cardston –

Vulcan – Lorelei Bexte

Lethbridge – Elizabeth Tokariuk or Rebecca Tokariuk

Representing the South 4-H Regional Council on the Provincial Communications committee – Wendy- Ellen Nittel and Lorelei Bexte

More information will be forthcoming before Christmas, and will be sent to either the indicated contact person or the district key leader.

11. Leaders – **2016 Leaders Conference** takes place in Edmonton on January 15th to 17th! It’s a great program, to mingle with other leaders from across the province, learn on a variety of topics, share some laughs, and get totally pumped about continuing involvement in 4-H! Sign up on-line! The deadline for registration is December 4th – so do it soon!
12. **PEAC (Provincial Equine Advisory Committee)** will again be hosting **PELF (Provincial Equine Leaders’ Forum) at the 4-H Centre, Battle Lake on Feb 5-7, 2016.** Bring your questions, share your ideas, plan to attend!!! Register on-line! Deadline is January 15th.
13. **Senior Members Conference** – January 30 to February 1, 2016 at the 4-H Center. Registration is open and filling fast! Great program, fun sessions and informative too! Check out the 4-H website for more details and sign up on line! Deadline to register is January 15th but spots are filling fast!
14. **Regional and District dates** – Please check with your district and regional committees to confirm all dates.

Districts – please send me your dates as soon as possible so that they can be added to the calendar and information can be added to the website to help advertise your events. For Regional events - VOLUNTEERS WANTED!! If you are interested in being part of any Regional event committee, please remember that you do not have to attend Council meetings (but you are very welcome to attend!) – your participation and involvement would be very welcome and greatly appreciated! Please contact your district council representative, district key leader or anyone on the Regional Council.

The dates indicated below should be confirmed before heading out to attend.

December	5, 2015	Saturday	Regional	Southern 4-H Regional Council meeting, 10am L
December	8 & 9, 2015	Tuesday & Wednesday		Farming Smarter Conference - Lethbridge Coast
January	7, 2016	Thursday	Cactus Country	Cactus Country Junior Council Communications V
January	7, 2016	Thursday	Cactus Country	Cactus Country Adult/Senior Member Communi
January	7, 2016	Thursday	Cactus Country	Cactus Country Adult/Senior Member Communi
January	9, 2016	Saturday	Lethbridge District	Judging Workshop

January	9, 2016	Saturday	Warner District	Communication and Parliamentary Procedure W
January	14, 2016	Thursday	Taber District	District meeting 7pm
January	18, 2016	Monday	Regional	South Regional Beef Committee Committee, lo
January	19, 2016	Tuesday	Regional	Southern 4-H Regional Horse committee meetin
February	4, 2016	Thursday	Cactus Country	Cactus Country District Meeting @7pm
February	8, 2016	Monday	Warner District	District Meeting @ Warner School 7:00pm
February	10, 2016	Wednesday	Lethbridge District	Decision Making Workshop
February	12 - 14, 2016	Friday to Sunday	Regional	tentative - Southern 4-H Regional Snowfest Wir
February	27, 2016	Saturday	Warner District	District Communication Competition - Time and

If you read this far, please have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Take some time for sharing and caring - for family, friends and others, and for yourself as well!

See you in 2016!

The 4-H Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF), Government of Alberta, collects your email address to be used to send to you regional and provincial newsletters, promotional information, event notifications and other information about 4-H Alberta. Please respond to this email address with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line if you do NOT wish to continue to receive this information.

Ginny Smith

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Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

4-H Branch

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Live Life Like Someone Left The Gate Open.....

Life's lesson from an equestrian point of view:

"There are only 2 emotions that belong in the saddle - one is a sense of humor, the other is patience" - John Lyons