



LEFT: Lexi Maier of the Clever Clovers 4-H Club puts her dog through the paces during the dog competition at Achievement Days; **CENTER:** Natalie Nayokpuk (left) of the Gayville Achievers listens to a judge during static competitions; **RIGHT:** Karlie Freng of the Mission Hill Hillers preps for the livestock competition at Achievement Days. (Randy Dockendorf/P&D)

'14 Achievement Days A Success

BY KAYLA PRASEK
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With more than 120 participants entering more than 1,100 static projects and livestock, Yankton County 4-H youth development coordinator Stephanie Siebrandt called the 2014 Yankton County 4-H Achievement Days a success.

This Achievement Days was Siebrandt's first as 4-H/youth development coordinator, which she started in May.

"It went really well for me," Siebrandt said. "Everyone was really nice and helpful. I just tried to be available for everyone all week. It's nice to see the kids do well."

While Achievement Days went smoothly, the number of static exhibits was down from last year, at 800 entries. Siebrandt said it's hard to tell why, but it could be a side effect of the limit for state fair.

"This year, each 4-Her can only take two static exhibits to the state fair, which is way down from the 10 exhibits the kids are used to taking," Siebrandt said.

Clover Hall, which was the main exhibit building at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds in Huron, was torn down in November to make way for a new exhibit facility. The National Guard Armory building will hold all counties' exhibits this year, with each county limited to an eight-foot-by-10-foot booth.

As for livestock, the number of swine entries was down by about 20 entries, which Siebrandt said she had expected. Due to the concern about the spread of disease in the swine industry, market swine were not required to attend a qualifying county event to be eligible for state fair exhibition this year.

Siebrandt said the number of poultry entries was also down to 15 entries. Beef, sheep and goat entries held steady from previous years, while rabbit entries were up. Siebrandt held a rabbit workshop this summer to help grow the rabbit program in Yankton County.

On the attendance side of Achievement Days, while no official numbers are taken, Siebrandt said she was happy with the turnout for the main event.

"We had a really good turnout Saturday for the dinner, fashion revue, cake and cookie auction, and Celebrity Round Robin," she said. "Everything went really well."

The cake and cookie auction raised \$690, which Siebrandt said she hopes goes to the static side of 4-H.

"I would really like to see the money go to improve the static exhibits or the cooking contest," she said.

All of the events held earlier in the summer — public presentations, fashion revue, Special Foods and the dog show — also saw their participation numbers hold steady from previous years.

"Overall, it went really well," Siebrandt said. "We had people at all our activities, which is always good to see. We couldn't have done it without our leaders. They help a ton, especially with livestock."

Next up for Siebrandt and Danielle McFarland, Yankton County Extension office manager, is the South Dakota State Fair. They'll both take the exhibits to Huron for judging and will help with shows and activities throughout the fair.

The South Dakota State Fair is scheduled for Aug. 28-Sept. 1.



KAYLA PRASEK/P&D

ABOVE: Tatum Hohenthanner of the Yankton Clovers flashes some style during the Fashion Show portion of Achievement Days in Yankton earlier this month. **BELOW:** Thursday, July 31, was check-in day for many of the entries at the 4-H Achievement Days. Many livestock were brought in for a weekend of judging.



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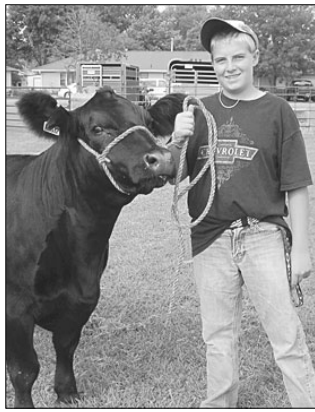
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