



LEFT: Dillon Barger and Layne Hauger checked out all of the booths at the Youth Fair, including where visitors could paint pet rocks.

RIGHT: Cloverbuds Easton Vellek and Owen Dangel tested their animal knowledge, trying to identify parts of different animals during the Livestock Skill-A-Thon. 4-H parent Daniel Dangel watched. Participants were separated into three different levels of difficulty based on age group.



Achievement Days Brings ‘Dog Eat Dog’ Competition

In Yankton County 4-H, four-legged friends come in all shapes and sizes.

The 4-H Dog Show, is an opportunity for youth to show the strong bonds they share with their canine companions.

There are four events at a 4-H dog show in South Dakota: rally, agility, obedience, and showmanship.

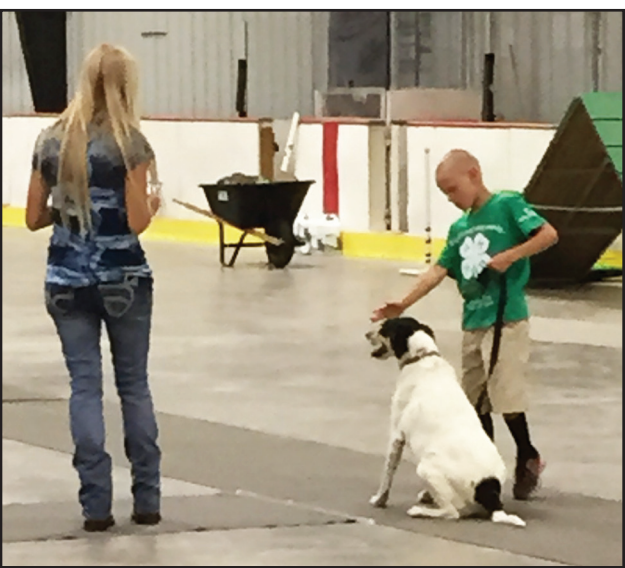
In rally, the 4-H member and their dog complete a course that has been designed by the judge.

Throughout the course, signs are posted that provide instructions to the 4-H member, telling him or her what skill their dog should perform. Rally trials show how useful a dog can be while behaving in the home, public places and around other dogs.

Agility is the Yankton County 4-H members' favorite event at the dog show. 4-H members lead their dogs through an obstacle course, which often includes tunnels, jumps, ramps and more.

The obedience class teaches youth how to work with their dogs safely and effectively. It encourages youth to go back to the basics when teaching their dog how to heel, sit and stay, among other things.

Finally, showmanship evaluates the 4-H member's knowledge and experience. 4-H members are judged on



COURTESY PHOTO

4-H Beginner Patrick Gurney instructs his dog Dixie to stay during the Yankton County 4-H Dog Show. This was one of many tasks Patrick and Dixie had to go through together at the show.

proper breed presentation of their dog, ring procedure with their dog, dog knowledge, grooming of their dog, and their own appearance and conduct.

Each event is judged at different experience levels, depending on what level the 4-H member and their dog is at.

Six 4-H members participated in the Yankton County 4-H Dog Show on July 18.

• Senior Heather Maier showed her black Labrador Retriever Honey. Their results were: open showmanship: purple, rally novice B: blue, basic b obedience: red, on leash agility: blue.

• Senior Jackie Pajl showed two dogs, a half Schipperke half Chihuahua named Cyndi and a Doberman Pinscher named Deimos. Their results were: open showmanship

with Deimos: purple, rally advanced b with Cyndi: purple, rally advanced a with Deimos: blue, basic b obedience with Cyndi: purple, basic b obedience with Deimos: blue, advanced agility with Cyndi: red, on leash agility with Deimos: purple.

• Junior Lexi Maier showed two dogs, a black Labrador Retriever named Peppy and a deaf Border Collie named Sparkie. Their results were: open showmanship with Peppy: purple, rally novice b with Peppy: purple, rally novice b with Sparkie: purple, pre novice obedience with Peppy: red, basic b obedience with Sparkie: purple, on leash agility with Peppy: blue, on leash agility with Sparkie: blue.

• Junior Emma Christensen showed her Poodle named Pooda. Their results were: open showmanship: purple, rally advanced b: purple, pre novice obedience: blue, advanced agility: purple.

• Beginner Audrey Paulson showed her Golden Doodle Kasey. Their results were: novice showmanship: purple, rally advanced a: purple, basic b obedience: purple; off leash agility: purple.

• Beginner Patrick Gurney showed for the first time with his collie Dixie. Their results were: novice showmanship: purple, basic a obedience: red, rally novice a: red.



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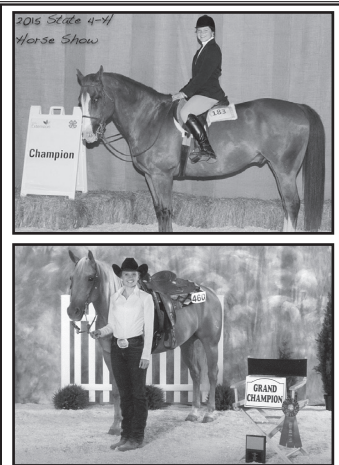
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Community

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another show where they used pictures, and he was great about knowing what to do," she said. "When it comes to anything with poultry, he knows so much that it's great to have him not only judge our kids but also help them by explaining things."

In that respect, all judges perform an important teaching role by helping the 4-Hers become better, Siebrandt said. The exhibits cover a wide range of projects and interests, with some 4-Hers specializing in certain areas and other 4-Hers entering a wide variety of projects.

"And we have some 4-Hers who, if they did something one year, want to do something totally different the next year," she said.

Clothing and photography remain popular exhibits, while sheep remains the largest livestock project area in Yankton County, she said. The overall

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STEPHANIE SIEBRANDT

number of livestock exhibits remains about the same this year, she added.

BEHIND THE SCENES

While Achievement Days receives the spotlight, 4-Hers work on projects long before the actual competition, Siebrandt said. In addition, her office offers workshops every week of the summer.

"A lot of families work on 4-H during the year," she said. "Other families focus on 4-H mostly during the summer when they are done with school activities. It just depends on the family."

Family members are encouraged to participate in activities and assist with projects while allowing the

4-Her to perform the work and gain the learning experience, she said.

This year marked Siebrandt's second Yankton County Achievement Days, as she joined the office in May 2014. Administrative assistant Danielle McFarland, along with volunteers, played a key role in keeping last year's event running smoothly, Siebrandt said.

In turn, last year's Achievement Days became a learning experience for Siebrandt, ensuring that this year's event went smoothly for her. "It's nice to be able to plan ahead of time and have that experience where I know what needs to be done," she said.

Achievement Days also benefits greatly from the sponsors who donate to the award fund which provides the prize money, Siebrandt said.

"4-H is a lot of learning, but there are also incentives," she said. "With the income (from the awards fund), we can show the kids that it really does matter. It's also a way for individuals and businesses to show their support for us and say to our youth that what they're doing is important."

Siebrandt and McFarland are preparing for the State Fair in Huron. However, they are also planning for the new 4-H year. They encourage any and all youth to check out 4-H and to join the organization.

"We tell the families, if there's something they like, they'll find it in 4-H. It's anything and everything," Siebrandt said. "The youth really get into honing their skills in areas they enjoy and like to do. We have everything from Legos and robotics to sewing, cooking and quilting."

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Open Class Photography Places At Achievement Days

Open Class photography returned to the Yankton County 4-H Achievement Days this year. Results were:

YOUTH DIVISION

• Class 101C — 1st Place, Heather Maier
• Class 102C — 3rd Place, Rose Lane
• Class 103C — 1st Place, Heather Maier; 2nd Place, Natalia Fargo; 3rd Place, Seth Fargo
• Class 103B — 2nd Place, Heather Maier
• Class 104C — 1st Place, Lexi Maier; 2nd Place, Heather Maier; 3rd Place, Heather Maier
• Class 105B — 1st Place, Heather Maier; 2nd Place, Heather Maier

ADULT DIVISION

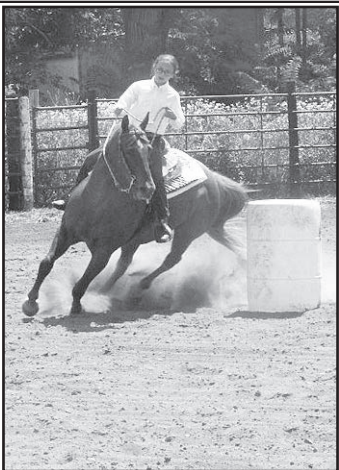
• Class 101C — 1st Place, Joyce Shodak; 2nd Place, Joyce Shodak; 3rd Place, Pat Heine
• Class 101B — 3rd Place, Pat Heine
• Class 102C — 1st Place, Joyce Shodak; 2nd Place, Sally Schroeder
• Class 103C — 1st place, Sally Schroeder; 2nd place, Joyce Shodak; 3rd place, Joyce Shodak
• Class 103B — 1st Place, Joyce Shodak; 2nd Place, Joyce Shodak
• Class 104C — 1st Place, Joyce Shodak
• Class 105B — 1st Place, Joyce Shodak; 2nd Place, Pat Heine; 3rd Place, Pat Heine



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