The month of March indicates spring is right around the corner. 4-H activities are more plentiful than ever before. Hopefully the weather will begin to warm soon allowing 4-Hers’ a chance to take advantage of the opportunities that are available. Get yourself into gear and get ready for all the activities that are planned for March, and the months to come!

4-H Volunteer Leaders Banquet 2010…. Was a great success! It was such an honor to have Tina Gill named 2009 Most Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. Mrs. Gill has been an active volunteer for the Carolina Riders 4-H Club for 10 years. She has attended many county and district functions in support of her club and 4-H. Congratulations to Mrs. Gill on this wonderful recognition.

4-H Favorite Food Show…. Held on January 23rd demonstrated real talent of chefs to be.
- Placing 1st in the 16-18 year old div. Meat Category – Caleb Gill – Carolina Riders
- Placing 1st in the 11-13 year old div. Meat Category – Taylor Dominessy – Carolina Riders
- Placing 2nd in the 11-13 year old div. Meat Category – Claire Gill – Carolina Riders
- Clover bud div. Katy Polaski – Meat Category - Carolina Riders

The Southeast District Horse Bowl Competition … On Feb. 6th was well represented with youth from Onslow County. Listed below is a list of youth who placed in the bowl.

JR. Reserve Champion: Onslow County Carolina Riders – Coached by Rachel Dominessy  Team: Brianna Mercer, Caity Wood, Ivey Teachey, & Taylor Dominessy
- Mixed Individual Placing: 3rd Place Caity Wood – Onslow County
- SR. Team Placing: 3rd Place Onslow County Tack Box 4-H Club – Coached by Connie Johnson - Team: Nicole Fose, Sarah Romine, Cheyenne Butler, & Alysia West
**JR. Team Placing:** 3rd Place Onslow County Tack Box 4-H Club – Coached by Connie Johnson – Team: Landri Hoke, Mackenzie McGarr, Isabella Taft, & Tiffany Zimmerman

**Camp Registration Has Begun…** Onslow County youth ages 8-14 will be heading to the Piedmont part of North Carolina for this year’s summer camping experience. This year’s trip is planned for July 4th – 9th 2010. The location is the Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Center on the outskirts of Reidsville, NC. The allotment will be 30 campers, so spots will be on a first come first serve basis. Cost to camp this year will be $275 with $200 due at registration. Don’t delay! Be one of the first to sign up. Registrations are taken daily at the 4-H office, 4024 Richlands Hwy. Feel free to call us at 910.455.5873 if additional information is needed.

**Announcing Public Speaking Contest…** This year’s contest will be held on Thursday March 11th at 7:00pm in conjunction with our monthly County Council Meeting. This event allows 4-H members in all age groups to prepare and present speeches on various topics of choice. No fee is required to participate but everyone is asked to Pre-register by calling the 4-H office at 910.455.5873 or e-mail wanda_mills@ncsu.edu. Remember, this is a scholarship activity and winners advance on to district competition.

**Teen Retreat…** Will be held April 10 -11 (Saturday – Sunday) at the Trinity Center – Atlantic Beach in Carteret County. The price will be $60.00 per person; this includes lodging and 3 meals (Saturday lunch & dinner & Sunday breakfast). Registration deadline is March 11th. Please make sure you have an updated Medical Release Form & Code of Conduct Form on file, No Exceptions will be made. The forms can be picked up at the 4-H office or retrieved off website http://www.nc4h.org/ click on procedures and guidelines. The Teen Retreat is open to all 4-Hers’ ages 13 and up.

**Spring Extravaganza…** 4-H will once again be hosting our famous Fashion and Talent Show. The event will be held on Thursday April 22nd at the Onslow County Multipurpose Complex with registration starting at 6:30pm and show beginning at 7:00pm. Break out your guitar, keyboard, or dancing shoes and come on out and show us your talent. The event is free and open to the public however, Pre-Registration is required by calling the 4-H office at 910.455.5873 or email wanda_mills@ncsu.edu. Deadline to register is April 19th (form is enclosed). If entering Fashion April 19th is also your deadline. Remember, fashion is judged in advance winners will be announced the night of the show. Information sheet for fashion revue and script is attached.

**CLUB NEWS NEEDED…** Any club is invited to send in club news and pictures to be printed in the monthly 4-H newsletter. The newsletter is a great way to let others know what your 4-H club is doing. If you have club news, please turn it in by the 10th of the month. Club news can be submitted to wanda_mills@ncsu.edu.

**Character Education Corner…** This month’s character trait is: Citizenship. Citizenship can be shown through one’s love of Country, Patriotism, respect for the law and service to others.

**Southeast District Horse Show** – May 22-23, 2010

**Southeast District Activity Day** – June 18, 2010 – Johnston County

**4-H Citizenship North Carolina Focus** - June 14 – 16 - Raleigh NC

**4-H Congress** – July 19 – 22 - Raleigh NC
Extension Volunteers Recognized

The annual Onslow County Agricultural Awards Banquet was held on February 9th at the Onslow Multipurpose Complex. Recognition was given to the various groups of volunteers that give of themselves to support and expand the work of the NC Cooperative Extension Service here in Onslow County. During 2009, Onslow County Master Gardeners volunteered over 3,600 hours of service to local citizens.

Special recognition was given to Jim Van Gorder, Marion Goodman and Jean Rebholz for their 500 hours of volunteer time and Leona Lilley and Barbara Walters were also recognized for 1000 hours of volunteer time as Master Gardeners.

Special recognition was also given to Jim and Sally Van Gorder, who were named the 2009 Master Gardener Volunteers of the Year for their devotion to increasing the knowledge level of other master gardeners and the public.

Several local farmers received awards for crop production contests:

Corn Yield Champion (non-irrigated division): Barry Shepard, DeKalb 6971 with 205.60 bushels per acre. Runner-Up: Richlands Farms with, Pioneer 31G71 with 199.06 bushels per acre.

Corn Yield Champion (irrigated division): Donnie & Franklin Riggs, Pioneer 31M57 with 223.16 bushels per acre.

Wheat Yield Champion: Richlands Farms, Inc, USG 3592 with 83.09 bushels per acre. Runner-Up was Winzell Taylor Jr., Coker 9436 with 71.65 bushels per acre.

The Onslow County Agricultural Hall of Fame award was begun in 1984. The nominee can only be inducted to the Agricultural Hall of Fame once, as either a recipient of the Master Farmer Award or the James R. Strickland Service to Agriculture Award. This year’s inductee was for the Master Farmer Award and that inductee was Mr. Ronnie Cox.

On January 19th, 4-H recognized Tina Gill as the 4-H Volunteer Leader of the year. Along with Mrs. Gill all 4-H volunteers were thanked and recognized for the years of service at the annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Banquet. The theme this year was “4-H..Let it Grow, Let it Grow, Let it Grow”.

The Onslow County Extension and Community Association (ECA) celebrated their 2009 achievements on February 23rd. The speaker for the event was Lisa Whitman Grice, Onslow County Museum Director.

The event started off with a memorial to ECA members that had passed away since the last Achievement Day.

Several members were recognized for special awards. They are as follows:

**Perfect Attendance** - Several members were recognized for attending all of the club's monthly meetings.

**Reading Certificates** - 6 members were recognized for reading and submitting book reports of all books read. 3 members were recognized for their reading reports. 1st Place went to Ruth Clifton turning in 49 book reports, 2nd place, Donna Williams turning in 2 book reports, an 3rd place, Barbara Nichols for turning in 13 book reports.

**Cofrer Leader Program Award** - Nancy Goad from the Sneads Ferry club received this award for a lesson she presented to her club. All clubs voted on a member that had presented information during the year. Judges then picked the overall winner from reports presented to them.

**Most Outstanding Club Member** – The following members were recognized after being voted on by the club members as the club's outstanding member: Jean Ross – Harmony; Kathy Cook – Jacksonville; Kathy Maready – Meadow View and Nettie King – Sneads Ferry.

**Most Outstanding Club** – This award is voted on by judges after seeing all the work done by a club's members. This year's award was presented to the Meadow View Club.

**Extension and Community Associate of the Year** – This award is given to an outstanding member that goes above and beyond the call of duty. This year's award was presented to Barbara Crossman.

Other awards were given by were not available at the time of this release.

For more information regarding the Extension and Community Association please call Peggie Garner at (910) 455-5873.