Fall is finally in the air and the excitement of a new 4-H year starts this month. Hopefully many of you are hard at work on finishing up projects for the County Record Book Program and working diligently on exhibits to enter in this year’s Achievement Program. The 4-H program gives you the opportunity to create, design, and boost your passions to a higher power in a growing world. Remember your future is now; invest in yourself! Let’s make the best better.

**County Council Meeting**…..All members please make note of this change; County Council Meetings have been rescheduled to the 2nd Thursday night of each month. The next meeting will be held on October 8th at 7:00 pm. 4-H County Council officers will be elected for the New Year. At this meeting the council members will also be putting together a yearly calendar for community service projects, group activities and social outings. All eligible youth, you are a Voice! Please attend this very important meeting. The location will be at the Onslow County Multipurpose Complex in Jacksonville.

**Onslow County Fair Talent Show**…..Youth will be performing in the 4-H Talent Show, Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00pm. If interested in performing please call Jayne Williams at 910.389.0901 or call the 4-H office at 910.455.5873.

**Onslow County Tractor Contest**….On October 15th, beginning at 3:30pm, the annual Youth Tractor Driving Contest will be held at Richlands High School. This is an exciting event as both boys and girls exhibit their skills in driving tractors through an obstacle course while pulling a trailer. Come take in the fun and watch the action. Top prizes and trophies will be awarded to the first place finisher along with a team award.
Christmas Cheer Time Is Here Again… Onslow County 4-H County Council is again participating in the Elder Cheer Program. Since 1996 the Onslow County Adult and Family Services Unit at the Department of Social Services has coordinated the Elder Cheer program. This program places emphasis on elderly and disabled population who are in resident care facilities while giving our community the opportunity to share their holiday spirit. Last year the Onslow County 4-H County Council prepared over 296 baskets from donations that were received from around the county. Please help the Onslow County 4-Her’s brighten our senior population by giving to this wonderful community service project. In the meantime tell everyone you know that we are collecting the following items to name a few. All items can be dropped off at the Cooperative Extension, 4024 Richlands Hwy.

- Lotion, perfume,
- Hard candy (sugar free)
- Socks, soap, shampoo
- Electric blankets
- Pajamas, night gowns, support hoses
- Disposable razors, shaving cream
- Tooth brushes, toothpaste,
- Large print puzzles
- Pens, stationary, greeting cards
- Holiday novelties
- Brushes, combs

We are also in the need of baskets, tins, and gift bags to wrap these items. All items are due in the 4-H office by December 4th. For more information please contact Wanda Mills at 910.455.5873.

The 4-H Cool Clovers Club….

Held their club meeting on August 27, 2009 and elected club officers for the upcoming year.

- President – Stephanie Humphrey
- Vice President – Grace Sebeatyer
- Secretary – Sean Bennett

- Reporter – Jordan Prejean
During this meeting they discussed ideas for their fair booth, upcoming 4-H events and enjoyed some outdoor recreations. Let’s wish the 4-H Cool Clovers Club and newly elected officers a productive 4-H year.

Character Education Corner….Self Discipline
Positive self control of one’s words, actions, impulses and desires will make life better for everyone! Demonstrate good judgment and have the courage to do the right thing.

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 15th of the month. My email address is wanda_mills@ncsu.edu.

- Onslow County Fair - Oct. 5 – 10
- NC State Fair - Oct. 15 – 25
- 4-H Record Books Due – Oct. 16
- Most Representative Forms Due – Oct. 16
- Wreath sales end – Oct. 16
- All clubs character information, plan of work, and enrollment forms due in 4-H office – Oct 16
Up Coming Events:

• National 4-H Week – Oct. 5 -9
• 4-H Embryology – Oct. 7
• 4-H County Council Officers Election Oct. 8 at 7:00 pm
• 4-H Achievement Program – Nov. 4 – 5
• 4-H County Council Meeting Nov. 12 at 7:00 pm
• State 4-H Horse Advisory Meeting Nov. 20
• State 4-H Council Conference Nov. 21 – 22, Raleigh NC.
• National 4-H Congress, Nov. 27 – Dec. 1, Atlanta, GA

SPOTLIGHT

SSDRIP $50 Rebate

Attention all Onslow county residents with a septic system! Onslow County received funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to establish the Septic System Database, Repair, and Information Program (SSDRIP). One of the components of this program includes a $50 rebate to septic system owners for maintaining their system by having the septic tank pumped. After the tank is pumped, the resident and pumper complete the rebate form and mail it to the Onslow County Health Administration Department. Rebate forms and a brochure about the SSDRIP program are available from NC Cooperative Extension, Onslow County Health Department, Onslow County Planning Department, and various septic tank pumpers.

Septic systems do require maintenance. One of the simplest practices is to not add anything to the system that may harm it. This includes harsh chemicals, large amounts of disinfectants, grease, and solids (bones, eggshells, cigarette filters, etc.). It is also recommended to have the septic tank pumped every 3-5 years, depending upon homeowner practices. The use of “additives” is NOT an alternative to having the tank pumped.

The NC Cooperative Extension Service has several publications to help homeowners learn about their system: Septic Systems & Their Maintenance, Septic System Owners Guide, and Why Do Septic Systems Fail? It is also recommended that homeowners obtain a copy of their septic system permit from the health department. For more information, contact the Onslow County Cooperative extension office at (910) 455-5873.